

Programme Title: BA French Studies and International Relations



## Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	University of London
Teaching Institution	University of London Institute in Paris
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	BA French Studies with International Relations
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	3 years FT
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	R1L2
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 6
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	
Responsible School / Institute	University of London Institute in Paris

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

University of London Institute in Paris

### Programme Outline

This is a unique programme of study delivered over three years of full residency in Paris, offering students a high level of exposure to French language and culture (understood in its broadest form to include literature, history, visual culture, cinema, linguistics and contemporary civilisation), as well as providing them with a grounding in various aspects of Politics and International Relations, including international relations theories and issues and the politics of the French-speaking world, including Africa and the Middle East.

The programme is designed to students with a grounding in all of these central issues (especially at levels 4 and 5), but at the same time provide sufficient flexibility to specialise in particular themes, topics and areas if they so wish (especially at level 6, but also to some degree at level 5). A research dissertation option is offered at Level 6.

The programme is designed to help students develop a strong sense of intellectual integrity, acquire substantial knowledge in the broad fields of French Studies and Politics and International Relations, and to apply these skills to wider situations.

### Aims of the Programme

1. Develop students' advanced skills in understanding, speaking and writing French in a variety of registers;

2. Broaden and deepen students' knowledge of key aspects of France and of the francophone world during the post-revolutionary period;
3. Provide students with a coherent and intellectually stimulating programme which will compulsorily include theories of and issues in international relations and the politics of France and key strategic areas of the French-speaking world.
4. Introduce students to, and encourage them to employ, a range of methodological approaches and transferable skills including the ability to articulate ideas, devise and sustain arguments, assimilate and evaluate complex material, present (orally and in writing, in French and in English) the results of rational and critical thinking, and the ability to collaborate in group projects;
5. Introduce students to independent research, in relation to both the study of modern languages and international relations;
6. Prepare students for professional life by offering them a balanced understanding of and an ability to compare French and British cultures in both the general and political frameworks;
7. Provide a basis for further study in a range of disciplines cognate to those studied in the degree.

### What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

On completing the degree programme students will be expected to:

1. Write high quality essays in French and in English that draw on a range of research and develop a clearly articulated argument
2. Deliver oral presentations in French and in English that engage audiences with an argument and stimulate debate and discussions
3. Demonstrate an ability to critically engage with academic texts on a variety of topics, and retain and deploy information in an informative manner
4. Develop a sophisticated understanding of the study, theory and practice of topics relating to both the domains of French Studies and International Relations, and how the two disciplines inter-relate
5. Graduate attributes based on independent motivation and delivery of work; tolerance and understanding for alternative ideas; problem-solving; excellent bilingual oral and written skills; and the ability to work collectively with different people

Academic Content:	
A 1	advanced knowledge of the grammar, structures and vocabulary of the principal varieties of French
A 2	broad overview of French post-revolutionary history, in particular crucial aspects of the recent history of France and its social, cultural and political aspects
A 3	key aspects of modern and contemporary French and francophone culture, with reference to literature, visual culture, cinema
A 4	understanding of historical and contemporary international political phenomena, including political texts, issues and problems within the field of study and with particular reference to the francophone world;
A 5	knowledge and application of appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches in the field of international relations
A 6	demonstrate systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of international relations;

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	understand written and spoken French in a variety of registers and for a range of purposes, and be able to respond appropriately, with the capacity to identify, analyse and discuss specific linguistic features of French using appropriate terminology
B 2	Express complex ideas in spoken and written French appropriate to register and situation
B 3	identify, analyse and propose solutions to specific problems of translation of different types between French and English, making effective and critical use of reference resources including dictionaries, grammar and databases

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B 4	formulate, explain and justify critical assessments of the role of French and francophone civilisation in relation to Europe and the wider world
B 5	apply knowledge and understanding, selecting and using established techniques and a range of sources to evaluate political texts, issues and problems;
B 6	work independently, demonstrating clarity, initiative, self organisation and time management;
B 7	select appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches to a range of issues within the field of study

Attributes:	
C 1	identify and critically evaluate appropriate information in specific contexts in a self-directed way, and reflect on how this might be used and adapted to different contexts;
C 2	work independently, demonstrating clarity, initiative, self organisation and time management;
C 3	establish a skills and learning agenda through negotiation, participation and communication in group discussions; exercise critical judgement and self-reflection on own learning, and use this to adapt to new situations in professional settings

### How Will You Learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with the ULIP's Teaching and Learning Strategy and that of SPIR. Both bodies are committed to developing, maintaining and supporting good and innovative teaching practice, and to fostering independent learning and critical thinking in students, taking account of the overall framework set out in the College Teaching and Learning Strategy, and within this we consider the following areas to be of central strategic importance:

Teaching takes a number of forms:

- lecture
- seminars
- workshops
- guest speakers
- individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- individual feedback on written work (where requested)

Learning is supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed module outlines and week-by-week reading and activities on Moodle VLE
- The provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- Appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- Use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, Moodle and online reading lists
- Encouraging active participation by students in seminar discussions
- Study skills methodology training

### How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include:

- Unseen examinations
- Critical essays (from 1,500 to 3,000 words)
- Oral presentations (individual and group)
- Translation exercises (with or without annotations)

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- Grammar tests
- Optional research dissertation in final year (6000-7000 words)

## How is the Programme Structured?

### Year 1 (Level 4)

The BA French Studies and International Relations is taught within the academic credit framework system. In the first year, students take 90 credits of core and compulsory modules, providing a grounding in key aspects of French language, contemporary French society, and an introduction to international relations:

ULL100- Written and Oral Expression (30 credits) - Core (approved) - taught in French  
POLP106 - Introduction to International Relations (30 credits) - Core (approved) - taught in English

Students would also choose 60 credits from:

ULC110 - Modern French History: from 1789 to the Fifth Republic (30 credits) - taught in French  
ULC100 - Critical Approaches to French Literature and Visual Arts (30 credits) - - taught in French  
ULC140 – Issues in French Contemporary Politics (15 credits) - taught in English  
ULC150 - Introduction to Cultural Politics (15 credits) - taught in English

In order to progress from year one to year two, students must take modules to value of 120 credit points and pass modules to the value of 90 credit points at academic level 4 or above.

### Year 2 (Level 5)

In the second year all students must take the following modules:

ULL200 - Advanced French Grammar (15 credits) - Core (approved) - taught in French  
ULL210 - Introduction to Translation to and from French (15 credits) - Core (approved) - taught in French  
POLP201 - Doing International Politics (2) (30 credits) - Core (approved) - taught in English

and choose electives equal to the value of 90 credits from a list of Year 2 courses offered by ULIP.

### Year 3 (Level 6)

In the final year students take the following modules:

Year 3  
ULL300 - Advanced Techniques in Written and Oral Discourse (15 credits) - Core (approved) - taught in French  
ULL311 - Advanced Translation from English to French (15 credits) - Core (approved) - taught in French  
ULL312 - Advanced Translation from French to English (15 credits) - Core (approved) - taught in English  
POLP301 - Doing International Politics (3) Practice - Core (approved) - taught in English

and choose electives equal to the value of 45 credits from a list of Year 3 courses offered by ULIP.

Academic Year of Study 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Written and Oral Expression	ULL100	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to International Relations	POLP106	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Critical Approaches to French Literature and Visual Arts	ULC100	30	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Modern French History: from 1789 to the Fifth Republic	ULC110	30	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Issues in French Contemporary Politics	ULC140	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 1 or 2
Introduction to Cultural Studies	ULC150	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 1 or 2

Academic Year of Study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Advanced French Grammar	ULL200	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to Translation to and from French	ULL210	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Doing International Politics (2)	POLP201	30	5	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to French Linguistics	ULC201	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
Language, Media and Society	ULC202	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
Representations of Gender & Sexuality	ULC212	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
Twentieth-Century Art	ULC213	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
History and Memory I	ULC214	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1 or 2
Tale of Two Cities - Comparative Literature	ULC221	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
Visual Imagery and Mass Culture	ULC223	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Climate Politics	ULC230	15	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 or 2
Politics and Fiction	ULC231	15	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 or 2
Queer Politics in Contemporary France	UL232	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1 or 2
France, Britain and Empire	ULC234	15	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 or 2
Introduction to Global Cinema	ULC235	15	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 or 2
Social movements and the politics of protests	ULC236	15	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 or 2
Fundamentals of Management	ULB001	15	4	Elective	2	Semester 1
Marketing	ULB011	15	4	Elective	2	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Advanced Techniques in Written and Oral French Discourse	ULL300	15	6	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Advanced Translation from English to French	ULL311	15	6	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Advanced Translation from French to English	ULL312	15	6	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Doing International Politics (3)	POLP301	30	6	Core	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Fin de siècle: Politics and Ideology	ULC304	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Prose and the City	ULC307	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
French Republicanism 1: 1789-1914	ULC310	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Economic Issues II	ULC312	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
French Colonialism in North Africa	ULC313	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Y2K Bande Dessinée: Millennial Comic Strip Art	ULC315	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
French Republicanism II: 1914-Present	ULC320	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Representations of the Maghreb	ULC323	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Trauma and Transmission: Holocaust Afterlives	ULC326	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Variation, Contacts and Ideologies in Contemporary French	ULC317	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Classic French Cinema	ULC328	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Research Dissertation	ULC329	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Postcolonial Fictions in the City of Paris	ULC333	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 or 2
Contemporary Theory 1: Critique	ULC334	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Contemporary Theory 2: Crisis	ULC335	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Contemporary Theory 3: Thinking the Anthropocene	ULC336	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
French Society Through Musical films	ULC318	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 or 2

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

AS/A-level: ABB

Typical tariff or grades required: 320 from 3 A-levels, equivalent to ABB at A-level.

Additional information: Requirement for B or above in French, preference for B or better in a social science subject (e.g. government/politics, sociology) or history.

Excluded subjects: General studies and critical thinking.

International Baccalaureate:

Subjects and grades: 32 points overall, with 6 in French, 5 in other Higher Level subjects.

## How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

## Academic Support

Academic support is provided by a personal tutor system, an active staff-student liaison committee, programme student representatives, and year group representatives. In addition the Director of French Studies (ULIP), Head of Student Services and Library Manager play an active role in student engagement and retention strategies that adapt and change to the needs of students.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee is made up of two undergraduate representatives from each year (first, second and final) from ULIP plus one representative for the postgraduate taught masters' programmes. The Director of French Studies is an ex officio member. Staff representatives will include the joint QMUL-ULIP Chair in IR (or delegate), Head of Student Services and Library Manager. Matters pertinent to SPIR can be reported back to the SPIR SSLC as required.

The main forum for students to give feedback on their learning experience is via the SSLC and personal tutor system. In addition all students are invited to complete an evaluation questionnaire at the end of each module (as well as a short interim evaluation at the end of the first semester for modules valued at 30 credit points). These are considered by the module convenor and chair of LTC and issues raised are discussed at LTC and SSLC as appropriate.

## Programme-specific Rules and Facts

N/A

## Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)



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- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

**Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills**

The BA French Studies and International Relations programme is not connected to a particular employment path and neither ULIP nor the School has links with a particular set of potential employers. However the subject specific and generic skills that are generated by the programme's learning outcomes prepare students for a wide range of international employment opportunities. Through the provision of high level French language skills and knowledge / understanding of French society as well as a coherent overview of the discipline of international relations with specific reference to the francophone world, students are prepared for politics-related careers such as the civil service, journalism, political research, social work, local government and working for a non-governmental organisation. More broadly, the emphasis on written and oral communication in French and English in the degree, along with the critical and analytical approaches to problem-solving, equip students for a wide variety of careers, including finance and banking, management training, PR and advertising. By providing a robust academic grounding in the subject students can also progress into higher levels of study, including MA / MSc and research degrees, and professional qualifications in teaching, translation, interpreting, communications, law and accounting.

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**Programme Specification Approval**

**Person completing Programme Specification**

Edouard Morena

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Edouard Morena

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

20 Oct 2022

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board**