

International Relations

International Relations is the study of an international system composed of territorial states which acknowledge no superior authority over matters which they consider of vital interest. It deals with the nature of the changing relations between states and with non-state actors and it studies the functioning of the international system – the forces, factors and interests, the customs, rules, institutions and organisations from which the theory and history of its development are formed.

Departmental Facts

International Relations has been taught at LSE since 1924 when Philip Noel-Baker was appointed to a new, privately-endowed Chair of International Relations. The Department, which was set up three years later, was not only the first of its kind, but has remained a leading world centre for the development of the subject ever since. It has played a leading role in the development of the subject, pioneering study in areas such as the increasing concern with international political economy and the international impact of revolution.

The Department has an internationally recognised reputation for excellence. It was awarded a rating of 'Excellent' (5) in the 2001 national Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and achieved 22/24 in the most recent independent Quality Assurance Agency Teaching Assessment.

Careers

Students develop many widely transferable skills during their studies including:

- written and verbal communications skills;

- research skills;
- an understanding of complex political and cultural issues;
- the ability to research using a variety of sources;
- the ability to create, evaluate and assess a range of options, sifting material and weighing up arguments;
- the ability to critically analyse information and can assess problems and arguments, reach conclusions and discuss them clearly.

International Relations graduates have found work with a wide range of employers including: multilateral and intergovernmental organizations; non-government organizations (NGOs); other charities; local and national government; manufacturing and commercial companies, the media and publishing companies. The Department of International Relations at LSE has also played an international role in training future university teachers and can count at least 50 former students now teaching international relations in universities throughout the world.

International Relations courses

available to General Course students include:

IR100 The Structure of International Society	IR304 The Politics of International Economics Relations
IR200 International Political Theory	IR305 Strategic Aspects of International Relations
IR201 Europe's Institutional Order	IR306 Sovereignty, Rights and Justice: Issues in IPT
IR202.1 Foreign Policy Analysis 1	IR308 Systematic Change in the Twentieth Century: Theories of the Cold War
IR202.2 Contemporary Foreign Policy in Practice	IR309 International Security
IR203 International Organisations	IR311 Europe's Institutional Order
IR302 The Ethics of War	IR398 Dissertation