Undergraduate Research in the UK: Politics and International Relations

Bachelor's degrees with honours are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

• a systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline
• an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline
• conceptual understanding that enables the student:
  • to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline
  • to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline
• an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
• the ability to manage their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline).

Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations

"Subject benchmark statements are used for a variety of purposes. Primarily, they are an important external source of reference for higher education institutions when new programmes are being designed and developed in a subject area. They provide general guidance for articulating the learning outcomes associated with the programme but are not a specification of a detailed curriculum in the subject."

How to Categorize Curricula

➢ Depth vs Breadth
➢ Choice vs Coherence
➢ Diverse vs Common Academic Standards

Data Obtained from 64 of 77 single honours politics or international relations degrees offered in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland from 2008-2009

Sample rate of 86%