

Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	BA/Politics , BA/International Relations , BA/Politics with International Relations , BA/Global Development
--------------	---

Summary of Overall Plans

You have chosen an excellent time to study at the Department of Politics, University of York. From Black Lives Matter to Brexit to the Covid-19 pandemic, questions about the role of government and the relationship between individual liberty and the collective good are confronting us on a daily basis. Should we expect a period of crisis to be followed by radical change, or a return to the old order? How can international conflict be avoided? What principles of justice and equality should we seek to protect? We look forward to helping you to develop the skills and knowledge to address such vitally-important issues.

Toward this end, we are writing to let you know our plans for delivering teaching and assessment through 2020-21.

Back in March, many of you will have experienced an abrupt end to your academic year. Within the Department of Politics we continued to operate through our Spring and Summer Terms, rapidly shifting into fully-online teaching and assessment. We are extremely proud of the achievements of our 'class of 2019-20' in successfully completing their degree programmes under challenging conditions. In 2020-21, we will deliver a high volume of teaching face-to-face, while also drawing on our experience of online delivery to ensure that this mode is integrated effectively where necessary.

The main methods through which teaching is delivered within the Department are seminars and lectures. In total, our plan is for you to take part in at least 12 such teaching events each week, typically four seminars and eight lectures.

Seminars provide an opportunity for you to review a given topic and associated reading through small-group discussion. We plan for around half of your seminars to be delivered face-to-face through 2020-21; on a given module, your seminar group session will take place face-to-face one week, and the following week will meet online. Online sessions will include structured Discussion Board activities.

We plan for lectures to be delivered online through 2020-21. This means that, rather than attending a large lecture theatre with all members of your cohort for a timetabled session, you will be able to access a pre-recorded lecture at a time of your choosing. Lecturers are currently working to create these new resources, which will cover the required material in an effective and accessible format.

We anticipate that a number of students will be unable to take part in face-to-face teaching during 2020-21. We have made provision to ensure that, where this is the case, all seminar sessions (as well as lectures, assessments, and

associated resources) will be available online.

In Summer Term, at the University of York closed exams (where students sit in an exam hall and write responses under closed conditions) were replaced by online open exams. Through online open exams, the exam paper is released electronically to the cohort; students then write responses in an open environment (i.e. with access to notes, books, electronic resources) and submit through our online system. We plan to continue to use online open exams through 2020-21. For our First Year modules, the open exams will typically take place in Summer Term. A programme of support will be delivered in preparation for each of the forms of assessment you take through 2020-21.

We hope that the above information provides a useful overview of our plans for teaching in 2020-21. While our plans are at an advanced stage of preparation, amendment may at the margins be necessary. As a member of the Department, you can be part of our planning process for 2021-22 and beyond. Student representatives are full members of our key decision-making committees, and we are proud of the commitment to democratic governance across the Department.

We look forward to returning to fully face-to-face teaching as soon as we are able. In the meantime, we very much look forward to supporting your learning through a blend of face-to-face and online modes from September.

Programme Structures

We have made plans to deliver your programme in line with its existing structure and existing suite of modules. Consequently, we are very pleased to be able to say that we do not have any changes to programme structures to report.

Further changes or information of note

Again, given our efforts to ensure continuity in our teaching and assessment, we have no further changes or information of note to report.