

## Programme Specification

**Award and title:** **BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics**  
**BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics with placement**

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Management, Accounting and Economics
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	Lord Mayor's Walk
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Politics, Philosophy and Economics Diploma of Higher Education Politics, Philosophy and Economics Diploma of Higher Education Politics, Philosophy and Economics (with placement) BA (Ord) Politics, Philosophy and Economics BA (Ord) Politics, Philosophy and Economics (with placement)
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	L1N9
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Economics (2023) Politics and International Relations (2023) Philosophy (2025)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study <sup>1</sup> for full time: Full time - 3 years Full time – 4 years with placement
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

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## Introduction and special features

Aligned with the **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)** subject benchmark statements for Economics, Philosophy and Politics and International Relations, the BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics programme offers an interdisciplinary education that integrates economic analysis with political

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<sup>1</sup> The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated; please refer to the Regulations for Undergraduate/Taught Postgraduate/Professional Doctorate Awards <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/regulations/> for information on standard periods of study

and philosophical perspectives. This approach equips students with the conceptual tools required to understand and address complex global challenges.

Responding to the demands of an evolving economic and political environment, the programme develops both a strong theoretical foundation and practical analytical expertise. Students engage with economic principles while critically examining the political and philosophical frameworks that shape policy, institutions, and global decision-making. This interdisciplinary structure prepares graduates for a wide range of professional contexts across public, private, and third-sector organisations.

Learning is delivered through an applied and research-informed approach that emphasises critical analysis, problem-solving, and the ability to interpret contemporary issues within real-world contexts. In line with the strategic commitments of York St John University, the curriculum is designed to be inclusive, accessible, and supportive of diverse student backgrounds. Dedicated academic support and varied learning methods enable students to develop confidence in critical thinking, evaluation, and evidence-based decision-making.

Alongside core economic theory, the programme engages with major contemporary debates in politics and philosophy, including health policy, the constraints shaping international governance, and the social and economic consequences of globalisation.

Flexibility within the curriculum allows students to shape their academic pathway in line with their interests and career ambitions, exploring contemporary issues through political, philosophical, or economic lenses while developing a distinctive interdisciplinary perspective.

The BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics programme is designed to enhance your employability by embedding practical, work-related learning throughout your study. Aligned with the University's **Work-Related Experiential Learning (WREL) strategy**, you will be provided with opportunities to engage with businesses and/or professionals and apply concepts to real-world issues. The programme is designed to be accessible to all, offering inclusive career development opportunities that help our graduates to be well-prepared to succeed in a range of industries and economic roles, equipped with the professional and interpersonal skills required in diverse workplaces.

York Business School is a signatory to the **Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)**, a United Nations initiative promoting responsible and sustainable management education. The programme integrates sustainability, and ethical considerations throughout the curriculum, encouraging students from all backgrounds to engage with pressing global issues and contribute to meaningful solutions.

### ***Special features:***

- Programme of guest speakers and industry experts, including our alumni, consultants, and professionals from organisations such as the Bank of England and private or public institutions.
- Opportunity to complete real consultancy project experience, you will have opportunity to work with businesses and apply economic knowledge in a professional setting.
- Live, work-related assessments that allow you to practically apply concepts to real-world challenges.
- Flexibility to explore economic, political or philosophical concepts, allowing you to tailor the degree to your interests and career aspirations.
- A Placement Year (also known as Year in Industry or sandwich year) for students on the "with placement" variant, gaining professional experience.
- Opportunity to study abroad, participate in international summer schools, or engage in global volunteering projects without extending the length of your degree - enhancing your global perspectives, cultural awareness, and employability.
- Opportunity to qualify as a Microsoft Office Specialist, enhancing your digital skills.
- Designed to be accessible and inclusive, ensuring students from diverse backgrounds receive the support needed to succeed.
- Excellent personal and academic support, with a dedicated academic tutor to guide you throughout the programme.

## Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

## Programme aim(s)

1. Prepare you for a career in a rapidly changing economic and political environment with the skills needed to adapt and develop as the environments change.
2. Consider philosophical approaches, ideas and discourse.
3. Provide a challenging, integrated programme of study that equips you with a sound general knowledge of organisations and the political, social and economic environments in which they operate, within the context of the guiding principles of the Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME).

## Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

### Level 4

- 4.1 **Examine and explain** a range of relevant concepts, theories and models to the solution of economic and/ or business problems.
- 4.2 **Explain** the key contributions of key figures to the development of politics and/or philosophy and political / philosophical ideas.
- 4.3 **Identify** and analyse political and/or philosophical views in domestic/international context.
- 4.4 **Find and engage** with evidence and viewpoints for presented issues and make supported assumptions, identify implications and formulate conclusions.
- 4.5 **Discuss concepts** and apply them in evaluation of the problems.
- 4.6 **Construct, communicate** and present coherent arguments, ideas and findings clearly to both specialist and / or non-specialist audiences.
- 4.7 **Understand** transferable skills for employment or further study such as teamwork, reflection, critical thinking and time management.

### Level 5

- 5.1 **Identify, evaluate and apply** a range of relevant concepts, theories and models to the solution of economic or business problems.
- 5.2 **Analyse** key political /philosophical concepts, theories and ideas to historical and contemporary context and events.
- 5.3 **Evaluate** key themes and debates in politics and/ or philosophy.
- 5.4 **Provide** insight into dynamics of international issues within a range of interdependent national contexts.
- 5.5 **Demonstrate** the use of research and enquiry to further your understanding of concepts and techniques.
- 5.6 **Communicate** ideas, arguments, and findings effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, using clear and concise language and appropriate visual aids.
- 5.7 **Demonstrate transferable skills for employment** or further study such as reasoning, time management and teamwork

## Placement variant

PPLO1 **Demonstrate** sustained professional behaviour in a workplace environment.

PPLO2 **Recognise** the links between practice and theories relevant to your area of study.

## Level 6

- 6.1 **Critically apply** principles to analysis of contemporary economic / business issues and evaluate the effectiveness of concepts and methods in addressing these.
- 6.2 **Demonstrate** a systematic understanding of concepts, theories, issues and debates in politics/ philosophy.
- 6.3 **Critically analyse** and evaluate historical and contemporary events, processes and behaviours, informed by theoretical perspectives.
- 6.4 **Demonstrate critical thinking** skills by selectively identifying and engaging with relevant concepts, theories and models and critically applying these to the solution of business and / or sustainability issues.
- 6.5 **Plan, design and execute** an independent research project, synthesizing theoretical knowledge, appropriate research techniques and critical evaluation to produce a coherent and well-argued analysis.
- 6.6 **Communicate** complex ideas, arguments, and findings effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, using clear and concise language and appropriate visual aids whilst working independently to solve problems and present insights.
- 6.7 **Evaluate readiness for employment** or further study by **applying** transferable skills such as analytical reasoning, time management and adaptability to real-world challenges

## Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
BME4004M	4	1	Principles of Applied Economics	20	C	X
POL4007M	4	1	Foundations of Politics and International Relations	20	C	X
POL4009M	4	1	Political Philosophy: Themes and Thinkers	20	C	X
BME4006M	4	2	Economic Policy and Practice	20	C	X
POL4012M	4	2	Sustainable Development and the Global South	20	C	X
REL4018M	4	2	Values and Virtues	20	C	X
BMI5009M	5	1	Controversies in International Trade	20	C	X
REL5024M	5	1	From Descartes to the Death of God	20	C	X
POL5014M	5	1	International Relations: Theory and Practice	20	C	X
BMR5004M	5	2	Business Research Methods	20	C	X
POL5020M	5	2	The Conservative Party	20	C	X
Choose 1 module from the following 3 for semester 2						
BMW5005M	5	2	The Business Lab: Real-World Consulting in Action	20	O	X
POL5019M	5	2	Practical Politics	20	O	X
REL5031M	5	2	Work Related Learning	20	O	X

For students taking the 'with placement' module						
BMP5007P	5P	Y	Placement Module	0	C	NC
POL6016M	6	1	Global Governance in a Changing World Order	20	C	X
REL6030M	6	1	Religion and Globalisation	20	C	X
BMI6011M	6	2	Rethinking Globalisation	20	C	NC
Choose 1 module from the following 3 for semester 2						
BME6004M	6	2	Health Economics	20	O	X
POL6022M	6	2	The Politics of Global Health	20	O	X
REL6029M	6	2	Spirituality and Public Life	20	O	X
Choose 1 module from the following 3 for the Year						
BMR6008M	6	1&2	Research Investigation	40	O	NC
REL6026M	6	1&2	Long Dissertation	40	O	NC
POL6014M	5	1&2	Dissertation	40	O	NC

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40) in order to progress.

## Learning, teaching and assessment

All modules are delivered through a variety of teaching, learning, and assessment strategies designed to develop both expertise and practical skills. These include lectures, seminars, live projects, guest speaker sessions, tutorials, and interactive learning activities that reflect real-world challenges and contemporary issues. Assessments are structured to mirror professional practice, helping you to develop the skills required for careers in policy, business, and consultancy.

You will engage in a diverse range of assessment techniques. These include policy reports, essays, portfolios, applied research projects, and case study evaluations. You will also develop key professional skills through presentations, reflections and consultancy projects.

To support your development, you will have access to formative assessments throughout your studies, allowing you to receive feedback before final submissions. The feedback will help refine your understanding, providing guidance on how to enhance the reasoning, analysis, and problem-solving techniques. Additional study support is available for academic writing and software proficiency, all of which will strengthen your employability and career prospects.

To support students in achieving their career aspirations, the programme's learning and teaching approach is structured as follows:

### Level 4:

The main focus of Level 4 is to **build core knowledge and explore career options**. As such you will develop a foundation in microeconomics and macroeconomics and essential analytical skills. Alongside economic theory, you will be introduced to core concepts in politics and philosophy. The introduction to these concepts will provide exploration of different areas of politics, philosophy and economics, and a strong foundation for further specialisation in Level 5, allowing you to tailor your employability skills based on your career aspirations or areas of interest.

Through live projects and engagement with businesses, you will apply economic concepts to evaluate real-world economic and business problems, developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and transferable skills that will be essential for your future career. You will also explore the policy and academic practice of international development and the key debates surrounding issues of global inequality and United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) and engage in informed policy focused debates. In addition, you will gain a solid grounding in the reading and analysing of primary sources in moral philosophy and be able to assess the value and a range of ethical concepts, in relation to their practicability.

Our aim is to ensure that students from diverse backgrounds can relate economic, political and social theory to real-life issues and gain practical experience from the very beginning of their studies.

#### **Level 5:**

Building on the core skills from Level 4, the focus in Level 5 will be on developing **advanced knowledge and career-focused learning**. Learning at this level will deepen your understanding of international economic and political drivers. A key focus of Level 5 is enhancing your employability skills through practical experience. Students can opt for work related modules based on their career interests. Students who would like to gain experience in economics/business can opt for the module *The Business Lab: Real-World Consulting in Action*, while students who wish to gain practical experience in politics can opt for the module *Practical Politics* and student who wish to take more holistic approach can opt for the module *Work Related Learning*.

#### **Placement Year – also known as Year in Industry or sandwich year**

If you apply for the BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics (with placement) programme you will gain valuable experience in real employment. York St John University will provide you with support to help source a placement which meets your career aspirations; however, **it is your responsibility to secure your own placement**. You will be expected to demonstrate your achievement while on placement through a reflective poster which explores the interconnectivity of university learning and learning in the workplace.

During the year in industry placement, you will be allocated a mentor from within the University, who will monitor your progress throughout the placement. This may include MS Teams/email conversations. You will have a minimum of one online or in person placement check-in visit which will include a conversation with the employer. There will also be a minimum of one keeping in touch (KIT) day based on campus where you will be able to meet up with other on placement students, reconnect with friends on campus or online, and have some sessions about managing your placement and transition back into university life. (NB if your placement is abroad, you will be able to join through virtual means).

#### **Level 6:**

After developing strong analytical and practical skills in the first two levels, your final year will focus on **independent research and ability to present well-reasoned conclusions**, key skills valued by employers. You have an option to select your specialisation by either completing your final year project in Politics (POL6014M *Dissertation*), Religion (REL6026M *Long Dissertation*) or Business/Economics (BMR6008M *Research Investigation*). Regardless of your choice, you will be working closely with a dedicated supervisor who will provide guidance and feedback. This project allows you to apply knowledge and research skills to a topic of your choice, developing expertise in an area that aligns with your interests and career goals.

You will also explore global issues from political as well as economic perspectives with option to select a module based on your interest.

You can opt for the module *Health Economics* which will equip you with the skills to evaluate and propose solutions to economic issues related to healthcare provision, resource allocation, and policy implementation. You will explore pressing challenges of healthcare systems. Students with interest in health issues from political perspective can opt for the module *The Politics of Global Health*, while students who wish to explore philosophical pathway in this topic can opt for the module *Spirituality of Public Life*.

Options in your final year will enable you to further specialize your knowledge and understanding and support your career aspirations.

#### **Progression and graduation requirements**

The University's [regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

#### **Internal and external reference points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
  - [University 2026 Strategy](#)
  - [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
  - [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
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*Date written / revised: 7 May 2026*

*Programme originally approved: 15 June 2026*