Academic INSIGHTS

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International Relations



AGES AND LOCATIONS

Ages 13-15: Cambridge
Ages 16-18: Cambridge, Oxford
Ages 15-18: Toronto

Students are taught in separate age groups, with content and pace tailored to each.
Small classes, averaging 7 students.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

International politics, covering realism and liberalism, critical perspectives, the Cold War, decolonisation, globalisation, and diplomacy.

You'll learn how to apply competing theories to a real conflict, analyse a case study, and argue a position in formal academic style.

You'll leave with a completed personal project and a personalised tutor evaluation to draw on in university applications.



EXAMPLE TUTOR

Andrés R

PhD candidate in Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge (Gates Cambridge Scholar)

Originally from Mexico, Andrés researches the evolution of international human rights law in the Americas. He has supervised and lectured on Latin American international politics at Cambridge.

International Relations sample syllabus

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WEEK ONE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	**What is international relations?** Define the state and foreign policy, and ask why the field is worth studying.	**Realism and the national interest** Examine how states pursue power and security in an anarchic international system.	**Constructivism: ideas, norms, and identity** Ask how shared meanings and beliefs socially construct the international system.	**Superpower confrontation** Analyse superpower confrontation and its effects on seemingly peripheral regions.	**The global Cold War** Examine the ideological contest between communism and capitalism worldwide.
PM	**Global politics beyond borders** Consider how ideas, money, people, and technology move across and irrespective of borders.	**Liberalism and cooperation** Explore international law and institutions as routes to peace and progress.	**Critical perspectives in IR** Use feminist and post-colonial lenses to challenge mainstream assumptions.	**1:1 tutorial** Talk to your tutor about the areas of international relations that interest you most, and get suggestions for reading and resources to take them further.	**The ends of empire** Study decolonisation and the construction of new political and social orders.
		Creativity masterclass Explore divergent, convergent, and lateral thinking, then use SCAMPER to generate and pitch original ideas.		**Personal project supervision** Choose a topic for your personal project, plan your research, and start shaping your presentation.	

WEEK TWO

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	**The Global North and South** Assess why inequalities persisted after the end of formal colonialism.	**The rise of China** Consider how China has gained and applied political, economic, and cultural power.	**Conflict and displacement** Analyse how international conflicts produce mass forced migration.	**Diplomacy and negotiation** Learn how states negotiate, and apply it in a global governance simulation.	**Personal project presentations** Present your international relations personal project to your tutor and peers.
PM	**Globalisation since 1989** Investigate global interdependence and its effects on how states behave.	**Populism and the democratic world** Examine the rise of populist movements across established democracies.	**Refugees and humanitarian response** Study the legal and humanitarian frameworks designed to protect displaced people.	**1:1 tutorial** Get feedback on your progress, and talk through your academic ambitions and the university courses and careers international relations can lead to.	**Personal project presentations (continued)** Respond to questions and discuss your peers' presentations.
	Critical thinking masterclass Examine the attention economy, echo chambers, logical fallacies, and cognitive bias, then debate a live issue.	**Guest speaker evening** Learn from an inspirational speaker from fields such as broadcasting, writing, philosophy, and sport, then question and debate.	**Personal project supervision** Finalise your research and slides and rehearse your presentation ready for Friday.		**Graduation ceremony** Certificates, speeches, and celebration.

Please note: this is an example syllabus and is subject to change.
Not shown: full evening and weekend social and cultural timetable.

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