

# PO366-30 Dissertation

**26/27**

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Shonali Banerjee

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

20 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

The PAIS dissertation is intended to provide students with a structured opportunity for independent learning, which enables and in-depth explore of a topic within politics and international studies. Students choose their own topics based on areas of particular interest and to extend their research, analytical, and writing skills. This is a largely independent, year-long research project with supervision by a member of academic staff.

### Module aims

This module aims to support students in:

1. developing a deep knowledge of the chosen research topic
2. refining their written communication skills
3. optimising their time-management and project management skills
4. developing qualitative and/or quantitative research skills
5. strengthening IT skills – both in terms of the presentation of the dissertation and in the use of online resources whilst researching the topic

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The dissertation is a largely independent, year-long research project with supervision by a member of academic staff.

Students can expect to consult with their supervisor 5 times during the year.

Meeting one: initial discussion of research topic

Meeting two: agree a final dissertation title

Meeting three: consider outline dissertation plan

Meeting four: consider draft written work of 2,500 words

Meeting five: consider a revised outline dissertation plan

The module also features 4 important lectures and training sessions

Lecture 1: Starting a Dissertation

Lecture 2: Finding Materials For Your Dissertation

Lecture 3: Researching a Dissertation: Archives and Press Material

Lecture 4: Writing and Completing a Dissertation

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- to present a research project in a logically-structured manner
- to develop a research question that can be effectively answered with a sustained argument within the confines of the word limit and available resources
- to use appropriate evidence from a variety of sources to support a sustained argument
- to develop the scholarly tools of appropriate citation of sources and to work independently to a strict deadline
- to collect and evaluate research material from a variety of sources

## **Research element**

Students on the PAIS dissertation take up original research projects that they complete as a largely independent study under the supervision of a PAIS member of academic staff.

## **Subject specific skills**

Develop a research question in Politics and International Studies

Present a Politics and International Studies research project in a logically-structured manner

Collect and evaluate research material relevant to Politics and International Studies from a variety of sources

Utilise appropriate evidence from those sources to support a sustained argument

Develop the scholarly tools of appropriate citation of sources for work in the discipline of Politics and International Studies

## **Transferable skills**

Research design skills  
Analytical skills  
Independent and critical thinking  
Cogent writing and considered dialogue  
Intercultural awareness  
Written communication skills  
Skills in academic practice  
Awareness of, and sensitivity to, diversity  
Educational self-awareness skills  
Skills in the distillation and application of complex information and ideas

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## Study

### Study time

| Type          | Required         |
|---------------|------------------|
| Private study | 300 hours (100%) |
| Total         | 300 hours        |

### Private study description

tbc

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A2

|                      | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Assessment component |           |            |                                 |
| Dissertation         | 100%      |            | Yes (extension)                 |

Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

Written feedback from multiple academic markers.

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## Availability

### Anti-requisite modules

If you take this module, you cannot also take:

- LA407-15 Dramatised Dissertation (Half Module)
- LA402-30 Dissertation for Final Year Law (full course)
- LA403-15 Dissertation for Final Year Law (half course)
- EC331-30 Research in Applied Economics
- SO301-30 Dissertation
- HI3S2-30 Dissertation
- LN400-30 Dissertation
- GD307-30 Dissertation/Independent Study
- PH313-30 Dissertation
- LA406-30 Dramatised Dissertation

## Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 3 of UCEA-Y205 Undergraduate Social Studies (Full-time)
- Year 4 of USX2-Y202 Undergraduate Social Studies [2 + 2]

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of V7MH Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Philosophy Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MF Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Politics Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MI Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Economics Bipartite (Philosophy Major) (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MJ Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Politics Bipartite (with

Intercalated year)

- Year 4 of V7MG Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Politics/Economics Bipartite (Politics Major) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M101 Undergraduate Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 3 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Core option list C for:

- UPDA-Y201 Undergraduate Social Studies (Part-time)
  - Year 1 of Y201 Social Studies
  - Year 2 of Y201 Social Studies
  - Year 3 of Y201 Social Studies
  - Year 4 of Y201 Social Studies
  - Year 5 of Y201 Social Studies
  - Year 6 of Y201 Social Studies
  - Year 7 of Y201 Social Studies
  - Year 8 of Y201 Social Studies
  - Year 9 of Y201 Social Studies

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M16B Undergraduate Politics and International Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- Year 4 of UPOA-ML14 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 4 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German

- Year 3 of UPOA-M16D Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German (3 year degree)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16H Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies (3 year degree)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 4 of UHIA-VM15 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics