Webinar Presentation on BA in Global Politics

Hi everyone and thank you so much for attending this presentation on the new ***BA in Global Politics*** degree, which welcomed its first cohort of students in September of this year.

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Entry Requirements

I'd like to start off by outlining the entry requirements for this programme. To be eligible, applicants must have achieved two H5 grades and four O6 or H7 grades across their Leaving Certificate subjects.

Among these, English must be taken at a minimum of O6 or H7. A second language is also required at the same standard, O6 or H7.

Mathematics is another essential subject, and applicants must have at least a grade of F6, O6, or H7. Overall, the core subject requirements include Mathematics, English, and Irish, or, alternatively, another recognised language.

It's important to note an additional requirement for students interested in pursuing a language as part of their studies.

If an applicant wants to take French, German, Spanish, or Japanese as part of the programme, they will need at least an H3 in that particular language to ensure they are fully prepared to engage with language learning at an advanced level.

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What Kind of Students are Interested in Studying Politics?

Now, if you've ever wondered how decisions made in one part of the world can ripple across the globe, then politics may be the subject for you. Studying politics isn't just about learning facts - it's about understanding the forces that shape our world and discovering how you can play a role in it.

Ask yourself: Are you passionate about issues like social justice, human rights, or climate change?

Do you want to understand why conflicts happen, how peace is built, and how international cooperation works?

If you love debating ideas, analysing current events, and challenging yourself to think critically about power and policy issues, then you already have the instincts of a political thinker.

In addition to this, it's important to keep in mind that politics also opens doors to exciting opportunities. You can pursue careers in diplomacy, international organisations, NGOs, journalism, or public policy. You can study abroad, immerse yourself in new cultures, and prepare for a future in truly global environments.

Most importantly, politics gives you skills that last a lifetime – skills in research, communication, and strategic thinking that can take you anywhere.

So, if you're curious, ambitious, and ready to engage with the biggest questions of our time, then politics is waiting for you.

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Why choose our BA in Global Politics?

We developed our BA in Global Politics programme because it allows the University of Limerick to leverage a ***longstanding*** area of teaching and research based in the university's Department of Politics and Public Administration, which has experts in many aspects of politics and international relations, such as peace and security, international political economy, political philosophy, European politics, research methods, and public policy and administration.

Although the Department of Politics and Public Administration contributes to some of UL's ***other***, interdisciplinary undergraduate programmes, like the ***BA Arts*** and the ***BSc in Social Sciences***, the BA in Global Politics programme allows students to undertake a ***far larger number*** of modules in the field of politics than is possible on ***any*** other programme offered by the university.

With this in mind, this programme offers its students the opportunity to undertake highly ***in-depth*** studies of politics, international relations, and public policy and administration, including modules on Global Politics, Researching Politics, and Foreign Policy.

Now, since this programme is designed to appeal to students who are interested in studying politics at a very high degree of depth, we are ***particularly*** hopeful that it is going to appeal to students who will take politics and related subjects at the Leaving Cert level.

But it is ***also*** designed to appeal to ***any*** student who wants to pursue a career in politics, international relations, or public policy, even if they haven't had the opportunity to study these subjects prior to coming to UL, because the first year modules on this programme will ***introduce*** our students to the key ideas, concepts, and arguments that will prepare them to excel in our more advanced and specialized upper year modules.

In addition to this, the programme helps prepare our graduates' to ultimately transition to the world of work by offering links with NGOs, government departments, and international organizations.

Indeed, this programme offers ***co-op placements*** with local councils, national government departments within and outside of Limerick, including the Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as international co-op placements in international organisations based in, for example, Belgium and Switzerland.

We, likewise, expect our students to complete Erasmus semesters during their degree where they will gain experience living, socializing, and studying in a different culture.

And students who choose to take the programme's ***language pathway*** will enhance their language skills while completing their degree.

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Modules offered (Years 1 & 2): Standard Pathway

Now, with respect to the programme's ***structure***, it includes ***two*** pathways – and our students will choose to do ***one or the other*** of them, depending on their interests.

As you can see, ***eight out of ten*** of the modules that students will take during the first year of what we call the ***standard*** pathway are in the fields of politics, international relations, or public administration, which reflects the programme's goal of offering UL's most ***in-depth*** degree in these subject areas.

We have also included the option to undertake a choice of History, Geography, or Sociology modules in Year 1 to not only introduce our students to other subject areas but also to make it ***easier*** for any student who decides that they would prefer to transfer to another programme, like the BA Arts, and study a different subject, to do so because they will have already taken the introductory modules of that subject and won't be behind their classmates in Year 2.

Given that we expect this programme to be quite a bit smaller than the BA Arts, these modules will provide even our first and second year students with the opportunity to take ***specialized*** politics classes.

Following this, our students will begin their ***co-op placement*** in the summer of Year 2.

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Modules offered (Years 3 & 4): Standard Pathway

They will then ***continue*** their co-op placement during the Autumn of Year 3 and embark on their Erasmus placement in Spring of that year.

Following this, in Year 4, they will be offered quite a bit of choice in terms of their modules since each semester will only feature two core modules, including their Final Year Project modules. The ***rest*** will be electives, including a module focussing on Foreign Policy.

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Language Pathway

Now, for students interested in developing their competency in a ***second language***, which is particularly useful for careers in the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Defence as well as international organizations and many NGOs, the programme ***also*** offers a ***language*** pathway, where students can combine their study of politics with Japanese, French, German, or Spanish.

Our students will undertake the same politics, international relations, and public administration modules that are featured on the ***standard*** pathway in Year 1 but will take a ***language*** module in each semester instead of a ***non-politics*** elective.

Year 2 will offer them a range of electives to choose from in addition to two core modules and their choice of language.

And, as in the standard pathway, our students will begin their co-op placement in the summer of Year 2.

They will continue their co-op placement during the Autumn of Year 3 and undertake their Erasmus placement in Spring of that year. The programme's Course Director will work with the Co-op Office and UL Global to ensure that students undertake placements that allow them to further develop their second language.

Finally, the structure of Year 4 is broadly similar to Year 4 on the standard pathway, but with ***one fewer*** politics elective in each semester to provide room to take their most advanced second language modules.

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Critical Skills

Now, the programme is designed to instil several ***critical academic, analytical, and practical skills*** in our graduates that will prepare them for a wide range of careers in public service, international organizations, NGOs, policy research, and beyond. Some of these important skills include:

Critical Thinking & Analysis, which means that you'll have the ability to evaluate political arguments, interpret data, and assess complex global issues from multiple perspectives.

Research Skills, including becoming proficient in conducting independent research using qualitative and quantitative methods, such as finding and analysing academic literature, policy documents, and statistical data.

Problem-Solving & Decision-Making, such as the capacity to apply theories and empirical evidence to propose informed solutions to real-world issues.

Effective Communication by continuously enhancing your writing and speaking skills, especially in conveying complex political ideas clearly and persuasively to diverse audiences.

Policy Understanding through developing a working knowledge of how domestic and international policy is developed, implemented, and evaluated.

Cross-Cultural Competence by becoming more aware of global diversity, international norms, and cultural differences, which are crucial for work in global institutions or multicultural settings.

Teamwork & Collaboration by learning how to work collaboratively in group projects and simulation exercises, which mirrors the dynamics of policy teams or international negotiations.

And finally, **Professionalism & Career Readiness** through developing an understanding of the expectations and writing styles used in professional settings like the civil service, NGOs, and international bodies.

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Which Career Paths are Available to Our Graduates?

And finally, I'd like to finish off my presentation by highlighting the kinds of ***careers*** that our graduates will be particularly well-prepared to pursue after completing their studies in Global Politics at UL.

Now, we expect that many of our students will go on to work for the national civil service in Ireland, or another country, or for county councils. This programme will make them well-prepared to pursue careers in diplomacy, policy analysis, espionage, political advising, risk analysis, and public affairs.

In addition, we expect that quite a few of our graduates will go on to work in the fields of international development and humanitarian assistance, which are key components of the Government of Ireland's foreign policy as well as Ireland's NGO sector.

Moreover, we expect that many of our graduates will pursue careers in the various departments and agencies that make up the European Union, the United Nations, and a range of other international organizations, many of which are based in Europe.

Furthermore, this programme will provide our students with the knowledge and skills to excel in critical ***corporate*** roles, like overseeing Corporate Social Responsibility, corporate-government relations, or international sales, as well as roles that will involve lobbying governments and politicians on behalf of a corporation or trade association.

And, of course, we expect that some of our graduates will pursue careers in ***electoral*** politics as politicians or as political advisors.

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Thank you

Thanks very much for your attention. We will be hosting an online Politics Webinar where you can learn more about this programme on the 12th of November. You can grab the link via the QR code up on the slide.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you have about his programme or our other politics offerings at UL.

END OF PRESENTATION – take questions.