

Foundation in Social Sciences, Business and Law

Developed and awarded by University of Birmingham, UK

MODULE OUTLINES

ACADEMIC ENGLISH AND STUDY SKILLS (40 credits)

This module will equip students with English for academic study at an undergraduate level. It will enable students to perform successfully in all areas of the Birmingham International Academy Programme, as well as developing their skills in English for academic purposes. More specifically, the module will cover the following areas:

- General academic vocabulary and grammatical accuracy
- Plagiarism
- The structure and grammar of undergraduate level written assignments
- Academic reading, writing and listening skills
- Developing and presenting own point of view, academic argument and discussion (oral and written forms)
- Presentation skills

A CRITICAL INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND LEGAL SKILLS (20 credits)

The module will enable students to develop a sound foundational understanding of the structure and practice of key domestic and international law fields. As part of this overall aim, the students will be introduced to core legal skills such as the analysis of statutes, treaties and case-law, critical thinking and problem solving.

These learning outcomes will be achieved via an exploration of specific legal mechanisms and the debates/controversies about their application, contained within a range of legal areas likely to include, but not limited to, the domestic law fields of criminal, public and common law (especially contract and tort law), and international law fields of human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law. As part of this process, students will be expected to engage with a variety of primary and secondary sources.

BUSINESS AND THE MARKET (20 credits)

This module focuses on the relationship between firms and markets. It looks at how markets work, how they differ, and how these differences matter to the firm. It begins by introducing students to some underlying ideas that will help them think about the subject, before moving on to describe the operations of the market itself. After learning about the laws of supply and demand, students will learn about how firms operate in different types of market, ranging from perfect competition to monopoly, and the effects of competition on consumers.

POLITICS IN A CHANGING WORLD (20 credits)

This module will introduce students to the main issues and debates in contemporary international and global affairs. The module will comprise four sections. The first section will focus on conceptual debates surrounding the nature of international and global politics. In the second section the development of the nation-state and its changing role and position in an increasingly globalised world will be considered, and this will be followed in the third and fourth sections by consideration of patterns of regional integration as a response to globalisation and questions surrounding global security governance and cooperation.

The key focus will be on how states are changing, and how they influence and are influenced by regional integration and international organisations.

QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS (20 credits)

This module provides an introduction to quantitative techniques used in economic and business analysis. The module starts with an introduction to elementary algebra, before moving on to introductory Calculus (both differentiation and integration). Throughout the module, there is emphasis on practical application of mathematics, rather than studying mathematics. A range of economic and financial applications will be introduced.