

Students' Handbook - University Foundation Programme in Social Sciences

2026/27

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Course Outline

Module	% of overall grade
Term One	
Maths & Statistics	10%
Economics	20% (including Term 2)
Law	20% (including Term 2)
Study Skills	15% (including Term 2)
Communication Skills	10% (including Term 2)
Themes in Social Science	5%
Academic English	-
Term Two	
Economics	20% (including Term 1)
Law	15% (including Term 1)
Politics	15%
Study Skills	15% (including Term 1)
Communication Skills	10% (including Term 1)
Final project for either Law or Politics	10%
Academic English	-

Grading Guide

- A** 70 – 100%
- B** 60 – 69%
- C** 50 – 59%
- Fail** 0 – 49%

Applying to University - Filling in UCAS Applications

During the first two weeks of your course, we will introduce UCAS and help you with the registration.

In your application you will have to fill in information on the following:

- Your personal details - full name, postal address, email, telephone number, where you live
- Your nationality details
- How you will fund your studies
- Education - your Foundation Year at IFG and your high school details
- Employment
- Your personal statement
- Your university choices - you will receive extensive one to one help in choosing the right course and university for the next stage of your studies.

In the education section where you should fill in the Foundation Year information, use the following details:

Awarding organization	International Foundation Group
Qualification name	Foundation Year
Programme title	Social Sciences
Start date (for September intake)	September 2026
Start date (for January intake)	January 2027
End date (for September intake)	June 2027
Start date (for January intake)	July 2027
Type of study	Full-time
Referee and/or Agent and/or Nominated access	Michael Addison Academic Director +44 (0)20 3633 0510 m.addison@intfoundationgroup.co.uk
Modules	Core Mathematics and Statistics Law Politics Economics Themes in Social Science Study Skills Communication Skills
Qualification date	July 2026

Delivery of the programme

The course is delivered and assessed in English.

Great emphasis is placed on the need to ensure that all students are prepared for the style of teaching and learning at UK universities. Many students are more accustomed to methods focused more on recall of information, and IFG recognises the need for students to adapt and become more secure in evaluating and applying theories and concepts.

There is a strong emphasis on informal assessments throughout the programme. At the start of each module, students undergo an assessment to identify individual strengths and weaknesses.

Termly reports are given to students and parents after the first and second terms.

Assessments

In order to ensure that all assessments are carried out in a correct manner, the following processes are in place:

- All formal assessments, whether exams or coursework are set and assessed by IFG.
- All pieces of coursework, both formal and informal, are submitted electronically.
- Students are required to submit an “AI Use and Authenticity Declaration” with their coursework
- Turnitin is used to ensure against plagiarism and inappropriate use of AI for all formally assessed coursework. In addition, all students are either interviewed or provide a short presentation on all coursework to check their understanding of their assignments.
- Exam room regulations adhere to JGF regulations.
- To proceed to Term Two, students must achieve an overall percentage of at least 50% in core module assessments.
- Students must pass all modules in order to be awarded a certificate of successful completion.
- Students are permitted to retake all assessments once. The maximum that they can score in a retaken assessment is 75%.

Project

All students complete a final project on a topic negotiated with the teacher. Students progressing to law related degree courses, complete a law related project, and students progressing to politics related degree courses complete a politics related project.

Assessment criteria:

- AO1 Evidence of use of a range of sources appropriate to the project title
- AO2 Ability to apply and analyse information in the development of a coherent and balanced essay
- AO3 Ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments making use of relevant examples and appropriate terminology

Course Modules

Maths & Statistics

Term One

10% of overall grade

Introduction and Aims

This module is designed to ensure that all students have an appropriate level of mathematical knowledge and competence in order to progress onto undergraduate studies in a range of subjects. For business students it provides the foundation for further studies in terms two and three. It is based on A Level Core Mathematics modules, C1 and C2.

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of basic mathematical concepts and theories, and the skills required to solve a variety of problems.
- Apply mathematical concepts and theories in a range of contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the specified subject content.
- Apply knowledge and critical understanding to mathematical problems.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Pledger, K et al (2008)	<i>Advanced Maths for Edexcel: C1 + C2</i>	Heinemann
Pledger, K et al (2008)	<i>Advanced Maths for Edexcel: S1</i>	Heinemann
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
End of Term Examination (2 hours)	100%

Economics

Term One and Term Two
20% of overall grade

Introduction and Aims

This course combines a study of micro and macro content in exploring a range of economic issues drawn from national and international contexts. It promotes an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life.

Although prior study of economic theories is useful, no prior knowledge is necessary. The course is valuable in a general understanding of the world around us, and offers essential background knowledge and understanding to students wishing to progress to business related degree level studies.

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life.
- Apply economic concepts and theories in a range of contexts and to appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real-world phenomena.
- Analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of government within it.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the specified subject content.
- Apply knowledge and critical understanding to economic problems and issues arising from both familiar and unfamiliar situations.
- Analyze economic problems and issues.
- Evaluate economic arguments and evidence, make informed judgments.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Powell, R & Powell, J (2020)	AQA A level Economics 1	Hodder Education
David Shapiro et al (2022)	Principles of Microeconomics	Perloego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/695166/1
David Shapiro et al (2022)	Principles of Macroeconomics	Pharos: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/4318974/1
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Coursework	30%
Presentation	35%
Exam	35%

Law

Term One and Term Two

15% of overall grade (25% if student chooses a law related project)

Introduction and Aims

The module introduces students to the English legal system and processes, and develops skills in applying legal rules and principles to specific cases. The first term gives students a firm foundation in law making and interpretation, court systems, negligence, and contract law. In the second term, students develop a more detailed understanding of criminal law and explore issues of morality, justice, and judicial creativity. There is a strong emphasis on evaluating information and knowledge, and developing the ability to construct logical, coherent and balanced arguments.

Objectives

- Understand the framework of the English legal system.
- Develop an understanding of how laws are made and interpreted, and the relationship between the legislature and judiciary.
- Understand the concept of legal precedence.
- Understand the court systems and the concept of trial by jury.
- Develop an understanding of negligence.
- Understand the basic principles of contract law.
- Understand the different aspects of criminal law.
- Appreciate the relationship between law and morality.
- Develop an awareness of the concept of justice and of judicial creativity.
- Develop an ability to identify relevant facts and principles and apply them appropriately to specific cases.
- Develop an ability to construct balanced and coherent arguments.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Martin, J & Price, N (2017)	AQA Law for A/S	Hodder Education
Martin, S & Wortley, R (2018)	AQA Law for A2	Hodder Education
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Coursework 1	50%
Coursework 2	50%

Politics

Term Two - 20% of overall grade

15% of overall grade (25% if student chooses a politics related project)

Introduction and Aims

The first part of this module introduces students to political systems and processes in the UK. It looks at the relationship between the legislature and executive and encourages an evaluation of where power lies within the UK system. It also examines representative processes and institutions and questions the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in the UK.

The second part focuses on political institutions and processes in the USA and again challenges students to evaluate and analyse how successfully power is dispersed within the political system. Students develop skills in comparing the systems in the UK and USA and reaching judgements on the similarities and differences between them.

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of different political institutions in the UK and USA and the relationship between them.
- Appreciate the changing nature of politics and the fluctuating balance of power both within and between political institutions.
- Be able to apply knowledge of institutions in order to analyse current political events and debates.
- Understand the similarities and differences between political systems in the UK and USA.
- Appreciate that individuals have both rights and responsibilities.
- Develop abilities to construct coherent and balanced arguments using appropriate examples and terminology.
- Be able to identify the ideologies and policies of the main political parties in the UK and USA.
- Develop an understanding of the role, strategies and effectiveness of pressure groups in the UK and USA.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Bill Jones, Philip Norton & Isabelle Hertner (2021)	Politics UK (10th edition)	Routledge Perlego: https://www.perlego.com/book/2555363/politics-uk
Robert McKeever and Philip Davies (2014)	Politics USA	Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/1545367/0
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Coursework 1	25%
End of first term exam	25%
Coursework 2	25%
End of second term exam	25%

Study Skills

Term One and Term Two - 15% of overall grade

Introduction and Aims

This module is taught over two terms. It helps students to prepare for undergraduate studies in the UK. It addresses the challenges of taking a course in a second language and adapting to a very different style of teaching and assessment. It also aims to provide participants with the opportunity to develop skills and confidence in the communication process, in different academic and professional contexts. It also gives guidance to students on writing personal statements for university applications.

Objectives

- Take effective and useable notes from a lecture.
- Appreciate how to identify sources and use them effectively.
- Understand how to avoid plagiarism.
- Develop an ability to select and apply information in a logical and appropriate fashion.
- Structure written answers in a coherent way, developing arguments and reaching balanced conclusions.
- Be able to carry out a research project using a range of sources, and showing an understanding of the Harvard referencing system, and compiling a bibliography in the correct format.
- Complete a well-structured personal statement.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Burns, T & Sinfield, S (2022)	<i>Essential Study Skills 5th edition</i>	Sage Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/4336896/23?page_number=179
Cottrell, S. (2019)	<i>The Study Skills Handbook 5th Ed</i>	Macmillan
www.learnhigher.ac.uk		
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

The final assignment is an essay of approximately 1,500 words on a negotiated topic in which students show their ability to conform to academic rules, perform a basic literature review and write a critical essay and well structured essay.

In Term 1 students submit an essay proposal of approximately 300 words on a negotiated topic in which students show their ability to develop a well structured essay proposal and plan.

Assessment title	% of module grade
Essay Proposal	15%
Final Essay	85%

Communication Skills

Term One and Term Two - 10% of overall grade

Introduction and Aims

This module is taken in terms one and two of the foundation programme. The course is divided into four units: non-verbal communication, verbal communication, IT related communication and presentations. Various transferable skills will be developed through active participation in different academic and professional assessed tasks (formative and summative) leading to the independent production of a fully individual presentation on a chosen subject in an academic and professional manner.

Objectives

- Employ an appropriate and effective use of non-verbal and verbal communication skills in various professional and academic contexts.
- Interact confidently with individuals, groups and large audiences.
- Make effective use of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software.
- Present and summarise ideas in a coherent way in various professional and academic contexts.
- Prepare and deliver a presentation with clarity and confidence using visual aids.
- Engage in reflective practice.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Hargie, O (2018)	<i>The Handbook of Communication Skills. 4th ed</i>	East Sussex: Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/1570402/0
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
In Class Participation	10%
Interview and Reflective Essay	10%
Negotiation Meeting and Reflective Essay	15%
IT Related Communication Test	15%
Presentation and Reflective Essay	50%

Themes in Social Science

Term Two

5% of overall grade

Introduction and Aims

This module introduces different subject areas within social science and provides a basis for the depth modules.

It is primarily a skills based module using appropriate topics to develop student ability to research, debate, and make considered judgements, putting into practice skills learnt in the Study Skills module.

Objectives

- Develop a basic understanding of different fields of social science.
- Develop research skills and an ability to evaluate information.
- Be able to construct effective and structured arguments, and make considered judgements.
- Improve ability to debate issues.
- Be aware that in many social science issues, there are a wide range of valid opinions.

Recommended Reading

This module has no specific textbook. A wide range of different resources are used as a basis for class discussions and activities including **IFG Pharos** - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments.

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Presentation and Debate	65%
Reflective essay	35%

Academic English

Term One and Term Two

0% of overall grade

Introduction and Aims

This course is designed for prospective students seeking to raise the proficiency of their productive and receptive academic language skills.

The primary study focus is on delivering the course content in a manner that prepares students for the style of teaching and learning at universities in the United Kingdom. The lesson input and participation aim to enhance overall academic expression, encourage critical thinking and promote private study.

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is a supplementary scope of scholastic development which offers theoretical and practical insight into IELTS Academic and is of particular benefit to students who wish to build on their test techniques and improve the IELTS band score.

Objectives

Writing

- Increase range of vocabulary for academic purposes.
- Use punctuation effectively and correctly.
- Learn about British English conventions for academic writing.
- Develop skills in describing and interpreting diagrams and tables.
- Select and organise ideas.
- Develop and link supporting examples.
- Use synonyms to avoid repetition.
- Develop strategies for correcting errors and proofreading.
- Understand English syntax and use this understanding to produce syntactically correct text.
- Identify and avoid contractions, tautology, split infinitives, the passive tense, double negatives and malapropisms.

Reading

- Develop the ability to understand the general meaning and main ideas of a text within a limited amount of time.
- Understand how to interpret the inferences and applied meanings of a text.
- Increase range of vocabulary.
- Understand a writer's opinions, views and claims.
- Develop exam skills including tactics on how to answer multiple choice, short answer, yes/no/not given and true or false questions.

Listening

- Comprehend main ideas and identify factual information.
- Recognise the opinions, attitudes and purpose of a speaker.
- Pay attention to tone, cadence and interpreting the meaning of silence.
- Follow the development of an argument.
- Demonstrate an understanding of detail by matching a list of items.
- Develop skills in labelling a diagram or plan.

- Develop skills in completing graphs, forms or tables.
- Show an ability to summarise, locate and remember key words and ideas.

Speaking

- Develop fluency and coherence.
- Use a wide range of appropriate vocabulary How to answer a question, and develop an argument or theme logically.
- Use a wide range of pronunciation features.
- Express attitudes, likes and dislikes effectively.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
British Council	British Council: LearnEnglish Teens https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/	British Council
Sam McCarter	Ready for IELTS 2nd Ed	Macmillan
Sue O'Connell	Focus on IELTS	Pearson
Raymond Murphy	English Grammar in Use 5th Ed	Cambridge UP
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Academic Listening Comprehension - 30 minutes, 40 questions	25%
Academic Reading Interpretation - 60 minutes, 40 questions	25%
Academic Spoken Communication - 15 minutes, 3 tasks	25%
Academic Writing - Visual Data Report - 30 minutes, 150-200 words	10%
Academic Writing - Discursive essay - 45 minutes 250-300 words	15%

* Assessment for this module is independent of the Foundation Programme and does not therefore contribute towards the overall grade.

Disclaimer

This handbook does not replace IFG's regulations. All students will be required, as a condition of enrolment, to abide by and submit to the procedures of IFG which are amended from time to time.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this handbook, but it is subject to alteration without notice. IFG will use all reasonable endeavours to deliver programmes in accordance with the descriptions set out in this handbook. However, IFG reserves the right to make variations to the contents or methods of delivery of programmes.