



**ONCAMPUS**  
Cambridge Education Group

# Undergraduate Foundation Programme **PPL** **(Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics)**

## Programme details

### Who is this programme designed for?

This programme is designed to prepare international students, who have completed senior secondary education, for entry to undergraduate studies at the University of Amsterdam. The UFP is set at level 3, which is equivalent to A-level standard in the UK.

### How long will I study for?

This programme lasts one academic year (nine months). The year is divided into three terms of seven to nine teaching weeks and one reading week. You will undertake up to 26 hours of classroom-based study per week.

### What will I study?

This programme includes English and three academic subject modules. English will be integrated into the teaching of academic subjects, as well as being taught separately for those who need additional support to develop their English language ability.

Academic skills relevant to the specific subject area will be taught to fully prepare you for university study.

### PPL Modules:

Advanced Mathematics  
Skills for Humanities and Social Sciences

Globalisation and Internationalisation  
Development Economics

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed at regular intervals throughout the programme to ensure you are making the progress required to successfully complete the programme. Full assessment of the programme will take place in the final term. Assessment methodologies are aligned to those that will be experienced in the University environment, and include project work, essays, presentations and unseen examinations.



### • Advanced Mathematics

The Advanced Mathematics Module curriculum is designed to cover all the basic elements of pure mathematics in terms 1 and 2. The curriculum includes topics such as: Calculus, Vectors, Matrices and Complex Numbers, Proof, Differential Equations, Mechanics and Discrete Mathematics. In term 3, students will do most of the work independently as they prepare for the end of module examination, which is the University of Amsterdam mathematics entrance test. The independent work should include individual as well as group studies. We envisage that by the end of the module, the students are competent in pure mathematics skills and have been equipped with an array of independent skills that they will find very useful in their future studies.



### • Globalisation and Internationalisation

The module is organised thematically and chronologically. The module starts with an introductory session on the discipline of International Relations and how it was developed and then it looks in more detail at political events and economic developments such as the rise of globalisation; the emergence and transformation of the nation-state; the main causes of social tensions, specifically, the module considers ethnic and religious conflict in fragmented societies; capitalism and uneven development.

In later sessions, the module looks in more detail at concepts and practices such as the concept of humanitarian intervention and its legality; the rise of a new type of war - virtual terrorism; the rise of China; environmental degradation; the political economy of oil; geopolitical tensions and nuclear proliferation.

**Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to:**

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major political and global issues which dominate contemporary world politics.
- Show knowledge and understanding of a range of theoretical perspectives and concepts accounting for these global issues
- Identify and discuss the role of state and non-state actors ordering the contemporary global political environment
- Show knowledge of key political and economic developments taking place on a global scale
- Critically analyse and debate about key concepts and practices in contemporary International Relations



### At the end of the programme you will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the main International Relations theory: Realism and Liberalism and how they affect international politics
- Describe key theoretical concepts – Marxist critique – World System theory – Core Periphery – Constructivism
- Show knowledge of the significance of the nation state in the modern world
- Demonstrate knowledge of the concept of humanitarian intervention
- Describe how significant natural resources are in development and the problems they create
- Describe human rights issues round the world as well as the role of NGOs in championing them
- Demonstrate knowledge of the different meanings of the concept of globalisation
- Analyse the competing views of scholars regarding the role of China as a rising hegemony
- Describe the key international institutions of development particularly the role of the IMF
- Understand the political causes behind the rise of political Islam
- Describe how the key financial institutions of the world function- why the World Bank operated as it did before 1991 and how it operates now
- Describe cultural identity, religion as a global issue, and its impact on global politics
- Understand some of the major environmental issues in the global context: global warming; pollution; diseases; deforestation
- Identify the causes of environmental problems
- Understand ways by which the International Community aimed to prevent and resolve global environmental problems
- Demonstrate knowledge of current geopolitical tensions over the new energy crisis
- Show knowledge and understanding of the evolution of world energy consumption
- Provide some assessment of debates over the nature of EU-Russia relations: geopolitical tensions over Ukraine: the Crimea Crisis 2014
- Understand the economic, sociological and political causes behind the rise of ethnic and religious diversity in fragmented societies

### • Skills for Humanities and Social Sciences

This module aims to equip you with successful skills and strategies required within the Humanities and Social Sciences programme. Academic study is not only associated with learning concepts and subject knowledge but involves developing many transferable skills ranging from academic and professional writing, critical thinking, referencing, editing proofreading, to making effective presentations and working independently and/or as part of a group, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management.

#### Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Use successfully the skills and strategies required within the Humanities and Social Sciences programme
- Use practical skills successfully (note taking, academic writing, referencing, exam and revision techniques)
- Use research skills as preparation for assessed written work i.e. data collation and analysis (surveys, basic statistical techniques used in sociology and demographic studies)
- Absorb and filter information in the planning of assessed work
- Read a range of materials, critically evaluating the strength of different arguments
- Communicate information, arguments, ideas and issues effectively and appropriately, both in writing and orally
- Work independently and as part of a group, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management



### • Development Economics

This module is about Economic theory across the globe, an introduction to basic microeconomics and macroeconomics, the reason why markets and governments fail, how globalisation affects economies, the reasons that lead to the Great Recession and the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on countries around the world.

#### Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Understand and apply the basic principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics.
- Understand and apply the basic reasons of market and government failure.
- Understand the influence of globalisation on the economies around the world.
- Understand the impact of the Great Recession on the economies around the world.

#### At the end of the programme you will be able to:

- Explain the basic economic problem, scarcity, efficiency and opportunity costs
- Explain and produce 'Production Possibility Frontiers'
- Understand that in the economy decisions are made by millions of individuals and firms about; What to make? How to make it? For whom to make it?
- Explain the 'Division of Labour' and its importance in modern society
- Explain the impact of specialisation by countries, regions and individuals
- Describe the 'Sectors of the Economy'
- Explain who the Economic Actors and their motives
- Draw a typical demand curve graphically
- Explain the inverse relationship between price and quantity demanded
- Explain that price changes cause a movement along the demand curve
- Explain what causes shifts in the demand curve
- Show that individual demand curves can be added together to form an industry demand curve
- Explain consumer surplus and show graphically
- Apply consumer surplus to current markets
- Explain the positive relationship between price and quantity supplied on the supply curve
- Explain producer surplus and show it graphically
- Explain the reasons why supply curves shift
- Demonstrate graphically how supply curves shift
- Demonstrate how to derive an industry supply curve from individual firms' supply curves
- Explain consumer surplus and show graphically
- Explain the difference between static and dynamic efficiency
- Explain what is productive efficiency and allocative efficiency
- Explain the relation between efficiency and the production possibility frontier
- Explain and discuss the reasons of market failure
- Explain the difference between Social Benefits and Private Benefits
- Explain why differences in Social Benefits and Private Benefits lead to market failure
- Explain the difference between Social Costs and Private Costs
- Explain why differences in Social Costs and Private Costs lead to market failure
- Demonstrate the operation of externalities through the use of diagrams
- Explain how externalities are controlled via, regulation, extending property rights, taxes and permits
- Define maximum price
- Explain why governments impose minimum prices
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of maximum prices
- Demonstrate how maximum prices may be shown graphically
- Apply maximum price to current market
- Define a minimum price
- Explain why governments impose minimum prices
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of minimum prices
- Demonstrate how minimum prices may be shown graphically
- Apply minimum price to current market
- Explain the characteristics of a true public good
- Explain and define non-rivalry and non-excludability
- Explain the free rider problem
- Explain what merit and demerit goods are
- Explain the types of positive and negative externalities associated with the most common merit and demerit goods
- Explain how governments encourage the use of merit goods and discourage the use of demerit goods
- Understand the reasons of government failure
- Explain the Business Cycle
- Distinguish the different phases of the business cycle
- Reproduce the Business Cycle diagrammatically
- Explain the Output Gap and reproduce diagrammatically
- Explain the causes of economic growth – extensive and intensive changes in land, labour, capital and technological progress
- Explain how economic growth brings higher income but not necessarily higher welfare. E.g. GDP – GDP per capita – distribution of income

## PPL (Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics)

- Explain how there are other ways of measuring welfare – Political Freedoms, Social and Cultural Freedoms, Environmental Integrity, Freedom from Fear of Violence, The Working Environment
- Explain participation rates
- Explain how unemployment can be seen as a “stock” and “flow” of people
- Explain the different types of unemployment – structural, cyclical, seasonal, frictional
- Explain how government seeks to reduce these types of unemployment
- Explain that there are shifts in the long run aggregate supply curve and aggregate demand curve and explain why these shifts occur
- Reproduce the shifts in LRASC and AD curves graphically
- Understand the multiplier effect
- Explain the effects on equilibrium output and prices when the Aggregate Demand and Long Run Aggregate Supply Curves shift and how these effects differ for the Classical and Keynesian LRASC
- Explain that fiscal policy is the manipulation of government spending, taxation and borrowing to influence Aggregate Demand
- Explain how aggregate demand can be influenced by fiscal policy and the effect of the fiscal multiplier effect
- Discuss Keynesian view that fiscal policy can influence output and prices in the long term
- Explain that government can influence via monetary policy – the use of interest rates, money supply and volume of credit
- Explain how expansionary monetary operates; explain trade off with inflation and level employment
- Explain how monetary policy can be used to contract the economy explain trade off with inflation and level of employment
- What are the main causes of globalisation?
- How does globalisation affect the economy?
- Is globalisation good or bad for the economy?
- What caused the global recession of 2008?
- Which countries were most badly affected economically by the ‘credit crunch’?
- Which countries experienced a period of huge economic growth and why?
- Explain what game theory is and how it is used in economics
- Introduce Prisoners’ Dilemma
- Explain what a dominant strategy is
- Describe and explain Nash equilibrium
- Apply game theory in an oligopoly
- Explain collusion

Sample timetable

	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5
Mon	EAP and English test prep	EAP and English test prep		Lunch	Subject 2	Subject 2		Personal tutorial
Tues		Subject 1	Subject 1	Lunch	EAP and English test prep	EAP and English test prep		
Wed	Skills for ...	EAP and English test prep	EAP and English test prep	Lunch	Subject 2	Subject 2		
Thur		Subject 1	Subject 1	Lunch	EAP and English test prep	EAP and English test prep		Skills for ...
Fri	Subject 2	Subject 2	Skills for ...	Lunch	Subject 1	Subject 1	EAP and English test prep	EAP and English test prep

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