



The Scholarship  
of Engagement  
for Politics

# Placement Learning

**Information for Prospective Students  
2006-2007**



### ***What is 'The Scholarship of Engagement for Politics'?***

The Scholarship of Engagement for Politics is a major research project funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Education (HEFCE), through its Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning (FDTL Phase 5)

The project deals with the development of placement learning as a formal part of the Politics/International Relations curriculum at second/first year undergraduate level. The project allows students to undertake a work placement, and be assessed on the placement experience as part of the assessment for a module.

It is a joint project between the University of Warwick, Coventry University, and Oxford Brookes University. Members of the Politics/International Relations Departments of these three Universities are involved in the project – their details are at the end of this briefing document.

This project has developed the opportunity for you to undergo a placement as part of your formal degree programme.

### ***What are the benefits of a placement?***

'Politics in action' is an ideal and exciting way for you to experience how concepts and issues that you are studying play out in practice. A placement can help you to develop academically, but also personally. You can further enhance your key skills (communication, problem solving, IT use, working with others) which employers place great emphasis upon when recruiting graduates. Obviously, placements assist you in planning your future career by enabling you to understand the culture of work in different organisations. You may well find that a placement enables you to discover what you do not want to do in the future as much as what you want to do. A placement like this can be recorded on your CV, and should increase your graduate employability.

### ***Who are the placements with?***

We have set up placements with a variety of people and organisations, ranging from MPs, to local government officials, to non-governmental bodies.

### ***What is involved in the placement?***

We have negotiated a precise work programme with each of the placement providers. Some have asked students to undertake specific research projects, whilst other placement providers require students to support them in their daily roles. You will be given further details if you are selected.

### ***How long is the placement?***

The placements vary in length. Some will be a day a week for a few weeks, others will take place over a week or more during the Easter vacation. The precise details vary from placement to placement, and will depend upon the requirements of the placement providers that have agreed to take part in this project. We will allocate placements on the basis that they do not interfere with your other modules and commitments.

***When would the placement take place?***

This also varies from placement to placement, but generally, you will undertake the placement at some point between January 2007 and April 2007, either in term-time when you do not have timetabled classes, or during the Easter vacation.

***How do you apply?***

Complete the application form available at

[www.politicsinaction.ac.uk/Placements/studentguid.htm](http://www.politicsinaction.ac.uk/Placements/studentguid.htm)

and submit electronically to Caroline Marsh – email [c.a.l.marsh@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.l.marsh@warwick.ac.uk) by the deadline of **15 November 2006**.

You should only submit an application if you are serious about undertaking a placement. Any placement requires a considerable commitment by you, and you will be acting as an ambassador for the three Universities and the FDTL project.

If you would like to discuss a possible application, please do not hesitate to contact Caroline Marsh, Room S1.126, Social Studies building, tel: 02476-575880, email: [c.a.l.marsh@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.l.marsh@warwick.ac.uk)

If you decide to apply, it is essential that you provide all the information requested in the application form, so that we can find the right placement for you.

The applications will then be considered by the project team, after having received your references. You will be notified by email as to whether you have been selected or not.

***What happens if I am selected?***

We will contact you and arrange for a series of meetings to prepare you for the placement. We will provide you with academic and practical guidance before and during your placement.

## **Undertaking a work placement as part of PO206 Politics in the United Kingdom**

If you chose to undertake a placement as part of PO206, and are selected, the method of assessment for the module will change to the following:

**3000 word assessed essay (40%) + 1.5 hour written examination (40%) + Placement evaluation (20%)**

**or**

**3 hour examination (80%) + Placement evaluation (20%)**

### **The placement evaluation (20%) will consist of:**

1. Reflective journal – to be completed on a regular basis by the student via our dedicated IT platform.
2. Informal interview with Caroline Marsh/ Philippa Sherrington on the placement experience.
3. 2000 word case report - written assessment of a theme/concept in UK politics related to the placement experience (for example 'political participation' or 'bureaucracy').

You will be required to complete all three elements in order to satisfy the assessment requirements.

If you decide to undertake a placement and opt for 40% essay+ 40% exam + 20% placement – the title for the assessed essay MUST be negotiated with the Module Tutor.

### **Please note:**

If you decide to take up the opportunity of a work placement as part of PO206, the mode of assessment is compulsory, and you may not revert to other modes of assessment. In the unlikely event that you have to terminate your placement contract, assessment would revert back to current assessment options. You will not be permitted to complete the placement and not submit the placement assessment.

## **Project Coordinators**

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The project's website can be found at:

[www.politicsinaction.ac.uk](http://www.politicsinaction.ac.uk)

The Student Application Form can be found at:

[www.politicsinaction.ac.uk/Placements/studentguid.htm](http://www.politicsinaction.ac.uk/Placements/studentguid.htm)