

## Credit Transfer Factsheet

### BA (HONOURS) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (R83)

If you have previously studied elsewhere and your studies were completed at the same academic level as OU modules, we may be able to award you credit transfer towards an OU qualification: this will reduce the number of OU modules you have to study to complete your OU qualification. You need to decide which OU qualification you wish to study for with us before you can apply for credit transfer.

This factsheet tells you about transferred credit from elsewhere into this particular OU qualification.

#### **Please note that:**

- Although this qualification starts in October 2024, the full credit transfer scheme will not be available until October 2025. This phased in approach is because some of the curriculum is currently in development. If you would like to begin your studies in October 2024, the maximum amount of credit transfer available is 60 credits. If you would like to begin your studies in October 2025, the maximum amount of credit transfer available will be 240 credits, and you will need to submit your credit transfer application from February 2025 onwards. If you are awarded the maximum amount of credit transfer available, you will only be able to study at a part-time intensity. If you would like to discuss a study plan, please contact our Student Support Team on 01908 541065. Alternatively, you can email them at [social-sciences-support@open.ac.uk](mailto:social-sciences-support@open.ac.uk).
- We can only confirm how much credit you can be awarded once you have made a formal Credit Transfer application which has been considered by an OU assessor.
- Your previous studies must be at the same academic level and carry at least as many Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CATS) points, as the OU study from which you are to be exempted. More details about CATS points and levels can be found on our website at <https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk>.
- We will award you as much credit transfer as possible, but this may be less than the maximum available towards this OU qualification. This is because the amount of credit transfer you can be awarded depends on several factors (such as the number of credits you achieved and how closely your

previous study matches the OU modules).

We will also assess your study towards our Open degree, as you may be eligible for more credit towards that degree. To find out more about our Open degree programme, please see: <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/open-qualifications>.

## Credit transfer towards the BA (Honours) International Relations (R83)

### Maximum credit transfer available towards this qualification

The maximum amount of credit transfer available (see table below) will be introduced from October 2025 onwards. The amount of credit transfer available for October 2024 is a maximum of 60 credits. This is because some of the curriculum is currently in development. The modules in this qualification are 60 credit modules and therefore your previous study would need to carry at least 60 credits at FHEQ Level 4 (or above) to be considered for a credit transfer assessment.

<b>Total number of credits required for this qualification</b>	360 credits
<b>Maximum credit transfer (from October 2025 onwards)</b>	240 credits
<b>Minimum number of OU credits to be completed</b>	120 credits
<b>Maximum age of previous study</b>	Completed up to 16 years ago

### Time limits towards this qualification

The amount of time that you have to complete your qualification will depend on the amount of credit that you have left to complete once your credit transfer award has been made. The table below shows the number of years you will have left to complete if you have the following number of credits left to complete your qualification.

<b>Number of credits left to complete</b>	<b>Number of years to complete qualification</b>
120 credits left to complete	7 years
150 – 180 credits left to complete	9 years

210 – 240 credits left to complete	12 years
270 – 300 credits left to complete	14 years
330 credits left to complete	16 years

If you are awarded credit transfer, then your time limit will start from the year in which you are awarded credit transfer. However, if you have already completed any OU modules that are eligible to count towards this qualification, and if you choose to include any of them, your start date will be the start date of the earliest OU module that you choose to include. You may find that including an earlier OU module(s) gives you no time, or insufficient time, to complete the qualification, in which case you will not be able to include that module(s).

The number of years you have to complete your qualification will depend on the amount of OU credit that you have left to complete given your credit transfer award (see table above). If you are awarded credit transfer, then the number of years you have left to complete your qualification will be displayed on your StudentHome page.

### **Age of previous study**

For this qualification we can consider previous study completed up to 16 years ago for credit transfer. We will calculate the age of your previous study using the date we receive your completed application with all required supporting evidence.

### **Study for which you could be awarded credit transfer**

You can apply for credit transfer towards this OU qualification if you have any of the eligible previous study shown on our website <https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk> that was completed at undergraduate level (or above). Undergraduate level in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is Level 4 or above, Scotland level 7 or above, and in the Republic of Ireland, level 6 or above. Study completed at FHEQ L3, RQF L3, QCF L3, SCQF L6 and NQF L5 (equivalent or below) cannot be transferred to this qualification.

When we assess your application for credit transfer, we will look at how similar the study you completed is to the OU modules in this qualification.

How much credit you are awarded is likely to depend in part on how closely the subjects of your previous studies match those of the modules in this qualification. If your previous study is in an unrelated subject area, we will not be able to award you credit transfer towards this qualification. To read about the subjects covered in this qualification, please visit the qualification description:

<https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/international-studies/degrees/ba->

### **What do I need to provide with my application?**

Every application must be supported by official evidence, usually in the form of an academic transcript and a certificate. Please see the application form and the FAQs on our website for more information about the evidence you will need to provide.

For applications towards this qualification, you will also need to provide syllabus information/learning outcomes in order that the academic expert can map how closely your previous study matches the learning outcomes of the OU modules in the qualification. Your academic transcript will provide a list of the modules or units you completed, but syllabus information/learning outcomes provides a detailed description of the content of each of those modules, often about a paragraph per module/unit. If you do not provide syllabus information/learning outcomes, it is likely to reduce the amount of credit that you can transfer to this qualification.

### **Unique study rule**

For each OU qualification, you must include an amount of OU study that is unique to that particular qualification (credit from study completed at the OU which has not previously been counted towards another OU qualification). Full details are given in the degree regulations, in the Qualification Regulations section of the qualification description: <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/international-studies/degrees/ba-international-relations-r83>.

### **Further information you will need**

To find out more about credit transfer, and to download a Credit Transfer application form, visit our Credit Transfer website: <https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk>. This site also tells you what previous study can be used for credit transfer and explains in detail how the application process works.

You should read this Credit Transfer Factsheet in conjunction with the qualification description which can be found at:

<https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/international-studies/degrees/ba-international-relations-r83> which

- Contains the qualification regulations and associated time limits
- Contains the University regulations
- Gives information on the structure of your chosen OU qualification

## Have you considered our BA/BSc Open degree?

You may be interested in finding out more about our unique Open programme:

- It gives you a huge choice in terms of the subjects and modules you study to make up your Open degree: you can take modules from any of our undergraduate subjects.
- Currently the only restriction on the age of credit counting to the Open degree is that the study must have been completed in the last 16 years.
- Previous study completed in any subject area can be transferred into the Open degree.

You can find out more from The Open Programme website:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/open-qualifications>

If you require a version of these notes in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact us.

This factsheet has been prepared by the Credit Transfer Centre at The Open University.

You are welcome to contact us regarding your application for credit transfer. However, please note that we are unable to advise you how much credit transfer you could be awarded before we have assessed your formal application.

You may find that your query has already been answered at

<https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk>.

Email: [credit-transfer@open.ac.uk](mailto:credit-transfer@open.ac.uk)

Website: <https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk>

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