

UNIVERSITY LEARNING & TEACHING AWARD HOLDERS PROFILE

[Philip Lord Norton of Louth](#), [Politics and International Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences](#)

A specialist in comparative legislatures, the UK Parliament, the Conservative Party, and the constitution, Lord Norton is the author or editor of 27 books and nearly 200 book chapters and scholarly articles. He has served as President of the Politics Association, Vice-President of the Political Studies Association, and as Co-Chair of the Research Committee of Legislative Specialists of the International Political Science Association. He edits *The Journal of Legislative Studies*. He chaired the Conservative Party's Commission to Strengthen Parliament, which reported in 2000, and was the first Chairman of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution. In L&T, he has a particular interest in:

- experience-based learning. He introduced a one year placement scheme for students at the House of Commons, which has been in existence now for more than twenty years, students spending the third year of the four-year degree in British Politics and Legislative Studies (BPLS) at Westminster, and more recently introduced a one-semester placement for students taking three-year single Honours degrees in Politics. A degree in Law and Legislative Studies, with a one semester placement, is also being introduced. He has undertaken a C-SAP funded survey of the placement scheme and contributes to C-SAP seminars and workshops, developing the theme of the three 'Is' as fundamental to successful experience-based learning: Investment, Induction, and Integration. A particular feature of the placement scheme (part of the integration strand) is the provision of Westminster-based seminar programmes during the period of placement.
- distance-learning. With Dr Cristina Leston-Bandeira, he developed the MA in Legislative Studies Online, enabling people working in legislatures in different parts of the globe to read for a Masters degree while maintaining their professional activity. The preparation for the online provision ensured that the degree was introduced in line with expectations and has enhanced the transfer of knowledge between officials and current and former parliamentarians on the course. The course has provided the basis for emulation and a second MA Online is now being brought on stream in the Politics Department.
- enhancing classroom participation. In order to enhance classroom participation, he has throughout his teaching career utilised non-standard procedures, including the provision of refreshments in seminars, enabling students to talk and relax before engaging in structured discussion. The environment created is then conducive to ensuring that every student in the class contributes to discussion. The practice is not radical but is distinctive, and has been emulated by former students who now teach.

Keywords: [experience-based learning](#), [distance learning](#)