Programme Specification

International Politics (2019-20)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of Award	International Politics
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate
	Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme Code	7983
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics And International Relations 2007
Programme Lead	Kamil Zwolski (kmz1y11)
Pathway Lead	

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

Designed for students who would like to advance their understanding of the changing nature of global politics, and involving discussion of the impact of globalisation, the rise of global governance, the politics of human rights, development, and other significant topics in global politics. The increasingly global nature of political relations is typically underscored by equally global economic relations in trade, finance, migration, concern over which is reflected in questions about shifting loci of global authority from 'west' (eg Europe and the USA) to 'east' (eg China and India) and ongoing relationships between the global rich and the global poor.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching
Modules are taught using a variety of methods, which may include lectures, seminars, group work or project work.

Lectures offer an overview of a topic, an explanation of difficult concepts or a discussion of key issues. Lectures presume a certain amount of additional reading, so it is often a good idea to read references before attending the corresponding lecture.

Seminars provide a forum for a closer examination of particular aspects of each module and are an important part of the learning process. Usually it is only by discussing and questioning aspects of a subject that their full implications can be understood. Students prepare papers and lead discussions or debates, and so develop their written and presentational skills.

The increasing use of web-based, video-based and PowerPoint-based teaching methods demonstrates our commitment to the effective use of available equipment and resources.

Assessment
Each module will involve one or two sessions each week spread over the semester. For each module, students will be expected to write one or more essays (or equivalent), make presentations or contribute to seminar discussions.

Some modules are assessed by essays, others by exams, and some by a mix of these methods. Exams are held at the end of each semester. The programme also comprises modules which feature innovative coursework tasks such as tailored policy briefings and poster presentations, all designed to hone key skills that are prized by employers.

Special Features of the programme

In addition to the core and option modules taken as part of our programmes, all our students also receive additional support and training through our bespoke MSc Workshops. In Semester 1, the MSc Coursework Workshop helps students prepare for their various coursework assignments, and in Semester 2 the MSc Dissertation Workshop is designed to help students produce high quality original dissertations.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

1.   Knowledge and understanding of the main approaches to the study of global politics.
2.   Knowledge and understanding of the main issues and events that challenge contemporary understandings of global politics.
3.   Knowledge and understanding of philosophical and methodological debates in the study of politics and international relations.
4.   The skills necessary to design and complete a dissertation on a specialist topic in the field of global politics.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

A1.   The main approaches to the study of global politics.
A2.   Main issues and events that challenge contemporary understandings of global politics.
A3.   Philosophical and methodological debates in politics and international relations and their impact on research design.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (A1-A3), seminars (A1-A3), independent research (A1-A3).

Assessment Methods

Written examinations and assessed coursework (A1-A3), dissertation (A1-A3).

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

B1.   Critical awareness and assessment of competing theoretical claims.
B2.   Construction of independent and well-evidenced arguments on aspects of global politics.
B3.   Capacity to evaluate and synthesise a variety of materials (library, internet and other media) on aspects of global politics.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (B1-B3), seminars (B1-B3), library workshop (B3), independent research (B1-B3).

Assessment Methods

Lectures (B1-B3), seminars (B1-B3), library workshop (B3), independent research (B1-B3).

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

C1.   Communicate complex ideas in a sophisticated manner appropriate to graduate level study.
C2.   Make effective use of a range of ICT including the internet, word-processing and research databases.
C3.   Identify, select and access a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as a means to the development, presentation and substantiation of arguments and evidence.
C4.   Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the ethical and legal issues associated with the conduct of research in the social sciences.
C5.   Design, implement and manage a piece of research.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (C1, C3-C5), seminars (C1, C3-C5), library workshop (C2, C3), independent research (C1-C5).

Assessment Methods

Written examinations and assessed coursework (C1-C4), dissertation (C1-C5).

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Pathway

Part I

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6001	International Relations Theories	10	Core
RESM6001	Philosophy of Social Science Research	5	Core
RESM6002	Research Design and Practice	5	Core

Part I Optional
From the following list of option modules:

In choosing optional modules, please be aware of the semester in which your core and optional modules will run so as to avoid, where possible, imbalanced semester loads.

Must take 80 credits from the following:-

Part I Optional Group 1
You must select a minimum of 40 credits up to a maximum of 80 credits from the PAIR option modules.

In choosing option modules, please be aware of the semester in which your core and option modules will run so as to avoid, where possible, imbalanced semester loads.

Must take up to a maximum of 80 credits from the following:-

A maximum of 20 credits in any level NQF7 module in subject PAIR.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6043	Comparative Public Administration	10	Optional
PAIR6017	International Political Theory	10	Optional
PAIR6012	The Ethics and Politics of Migration	10	Optional

Part I Optional Group 2
Must take 0 credits up to a maximum of 40 credits from the following:-

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type

GERO6020	Ageing, Health and Well-being	10	Optional
GERO6019	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation	10	Optional
DEMO6022	Demographic Methods 2	5	Optional
DEMO6020	Demographic Methods I	5	Optional
SOCI6046	International Social Policy	10	Optional
GERO6018	Perspectives in Gerontology	10	Optional
DEMO6023	Population, Poverty & Policy	5	Optional
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	5	Optional
RESM6004	Quantitative Methods 1	5	Optional
GERO6017	Researching Ageing Societies	10	Optional
STAT6086	Sampling Techniques	5	Optional
SOCI6035	Understanding Modernity	10	Optional
DEMO6021	Understanding Population Change	5	Optional
SOCI6043	Understanding Social Change	10	Optional

Part II

Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6008	MSc Dissertation in Politics & International Relations	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes* and *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes* as set out in the University Calendar: http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards

- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV.
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community (18.00-08.00).
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides
- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

· Module co-ordinators support. Module co-ordinators will be available at designated times during the week to discuss issues related to the particular modules you are studying at the time. This will be in addition to class contact time.

· Academic/personal tutor. As soon as you register on this programme, you will be allocated a personal tutor. S/he is a member of the academic team and will be available to discuss general academic issues related to the programme as well as offer advice and support on any personal issues which may affect your studies.

· Module handbooks/outlines. These will be available at the start of each module (often in online format). The Handbook includes the aims and learning outcomes of the module, the methods of assessment, relevant background material to the module and a session-by-session breakdown of the module together with appropriate reading lists.

· Within the Faculty, administrative support is provided by your Student Office which deals with student records and related issues and with queries related to your specific degree programme.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

· Completing student surveys for each module of the programme.
· Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
· Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
· Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:
· Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty.
· Programme validation, normally every five years.
· External examiners, who produce an annual report.
· A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience).
· Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency.
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Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the *Quality handbook*.

Career Opportunities

The breadth of the MSc International Politics provides students with a wide range of skills suitable for diverse employment opportunities. Graduates are expected to develop careers in both governmental and non-governmental international organisations, the public sector in the UK and abroad, as well as in any number of private sector positions. Previous students have gone on to jobs in parliament, banking, media, the public sector, think-tanks, local authorities, the armed forces, international organisations, publishing and teaching, as well as moving into academia.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Professor Richard Beardsworth - University of Aberystwyth

Name: Professor Rosie Campbell - Birkbeck College University of London

Name: Dr Phil Parvin - Loughborough University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Approved Calculators	Approved Calculators: candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved model is Casio FX-570 This may be purchased from any source and no longer needs to carry the University logo.
Illegible Exam Scripts	If your examination script is considered illegible, you will be asked to come in to dictate your script so that it can be transcribed. The costs associated with producing the transcript will fall to you and will be charged at £10.00 per hour. If you refuse to attend, you may be awarded a mark of zero (0). The Illegible Examinations Scripts Policy is available at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/imported/transforms/content-block/UsefulDownloads_Download/3B577FE48C0B45FAA726364427668BAB/Illegible%20Examination%20Scripts%20Policy.pdf
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.