Programme Specification

International Security and Risk (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 Security and Risk
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education
	Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme Code	7987
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics And International Relations 2007
Programme Lead	Steven Chisnall (sc2c12)
Pathway Lead	

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

Changing the world for the better is becoming harder. We live in a world that appears to be becoming less secure and more complex than at any time in living memory. In the field of security studies this is posing new challenges, imposing new constraints and demanding new thinking.

Through this programme you will have the opportunity to develop new solutions to these complex challenges by undertaking wide interdisciplinary study. You will have the opportunity to examine the key security issues facing the world today, including cyber threats, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and the challenges posed by states and non-state actors. With a focus on understanding the real-world policy implications of these security challenges, you will have the opportunity to develop practical, policy-relevant proposals. Using advanced research on risk analysis and decision making, you will be expected to apply advanced interdisciplinary skills and knowledge in addressing global security issues.

You will be able to tailor your study and research interests by choosing from a range of option modules and selecting your main research topic.

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
This programme is built on a unique multidisciplinary approach. This scope reflects a global political environment that escapes narrow understandings of threat, risk, and security. The programme incorporates both the skills and the dimensions of understanding that are necessary for navigating the radically changed political landscape of the 21st Century. This places historical, social scientific, technological, and military understandings

on an equal footing as you grapple with contemporary problems and challenges. The programme will equip you to work with the complex situations policy makers address every day and will allow you to tailor your studies towards the areas that interest you most.

In summary, the learning and teaching of the MSc programme will be facilitated through:

·   Interactive lectures and interdisciplinary modules
·   Team teaching by research active academics
·   Transformative and reflective learning
·   Case studies
·   Problem-solving and analysis of real data
·   Multimedia based tutorials, debates, peer-review and group work
·   Practical laboratory work
·   Consultation/advice
·   Independent research

Assessment

The type of assessment varies across modules depending on specific learning outcomes and key skills. The programme is evaluated by a range of formative and summative assessment methods: coursework including problem-solving assignments and case studies, critical review of journal articles and research reports in written format, essays, posters, oral/electronic presentations, written examination and an independent research project.

You will be guided through a range of assessment methods to enable you to show clearly how you have achieved the intended learning outcomes. Assessment methods will include a dissertation, essays, policy briefs, laboratory work and presentations.

Special Features of the programme

N/A

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

· The opportunity to develop a critical, interdisciplinary understanding of the key security challenges facing the world today
· An understanding of how to apply risk analysis to these challenges
· The skills necessary to solve problems and present solutions
· The skills necessary to design and complete an extended piece of research on a specialist topic in the field of security.
· A knowledge of the principal methods of research and an understanding of their application in different contexts
· The skills and knowledge to present ideas, arguments and research findings through different means of communication
· An opportunity to prepare for or develop a professional career working in the areas of security and/or risk.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

A1.   Contemporary security challenges.
A2.   How to analyse these challenges through an interdisciplinary approach.
A3.   How to apply risk management and analysis techniques.
A4.   How to develop and present policy proposals.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (A1-4); seminars (A1-4); independent research (A1-4).

Assessment Methods

Written examinations and assessed course work (A1-4); dissertation (A1-4)

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

B1.   Demonstrate critical awareness and assessment of competing theoretical claims through the synthesis of a variety of materials (library sources, internet etc) on aspects of security, risk and uncertainty.
B2.   Demonstrate and assess the relationship between concepts, theories and empirical research within security studies.
B3.   Construct independent and well-evidenced arguments on the principles and concepts of security, risk and uncertainty and their implications for policy making.
B4.   Solve problems by applying advanced knowledge of security and risk theory and practice to interpret actual problems or hypothetical, fact-based situations.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (B3,4); seminars (B1-4); independent research (B3,4); case studies (B3,4); laboratory work (B4).

Assessment Methods

Written examinations and assessed coursework (B1-4); dissertation (B1-4); presentation (B4); laboratory (B4).

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

C1.   Use a variety of tools to research security issues.

C2.   Apply different methodologies to help develop solutions to problems.
C3.   Communicate complex ideas and arguments orally and in a variety of written formats.
C4.   Develop and present policy relevant proposals, verbally and orally.
C5.   Demonstrate the ability to work individually and in teams.
C6.   Design, develop and manage a piece of extended research, using appropriate research methodologies.
C7.   Demonstrate the ability to reflect constructively on your learning and make effective use of feedback received.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (C1-2); seminars (C1-7); independent research (C1,2,6,7).

Assessment Methods

Written examinations and assessed coursework(C1-7); dissertation (C1-7); presentation (C3,5).

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 Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6002	Contemporary Security Challenges	10	Compulsory
COMP6224	Foundations of Cyber Security	7.5	Compulsory
MANG6182	Principles of Risk Management	7.5	Compulsory
PAIR6046	Security Theory (15)	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Optional
Please select a minimum of 55 credits up to a maximum of 65 credits from the following options:-

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6017	International Political Theory	10	Optional
PAIR6012	The Ethics and Politics of Migration	10	Optional
CRIM6004	Contemporary Policing	10	Optional
CRIM6008	Cyber Crime, Insecurity and the Dark Web (Cyber Security)	7.5	Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HIST6121		7.5	Optional
MANG6134	Risk Taking and Decision Making	7.5	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 evaluation questionnaires 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 feed back 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)
Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education;

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the *Quality handbook*.

Career Opportunities

This course has been specifically designed for students with a practical, career-related focus. The security sector and security-related jobs provide a very wide range of career opportunities. The broad, inter-disciplinary nature of the course provides multiple pathways for entering these industries and sectors, including government departments and agencies, business, international organisations, think tanks and NGOs. Specific career routes could involve security analysis, cyber defence, risk analysis, policy development, intelligence assessment and conflict resolution.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Professor Richard Beardsworth - University of Aberystwyth

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 stationery 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.
Optional Visits (e.g. museums, galleries)	You will normally be expected to cover the cost of travel and admission, unless otherwise specified in the module profile.
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.