Programme Specification

Governance and Policy (Research) (2020-21)

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 in the Social Sciences (MSc SocSci)
Name of Award	Governance and Policy (Research)
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme Code	5077
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics And International Relations 2007
Programme Lead	Kamil Zwolski
Pathway Lead	

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

This innovative programme offers students the opportunity to examine processes of governance and policy-making at a variety of levels, from global to local, utilise ideas about governance to better understand contemporary policy processes in a range of settings, while also gaining rigorous research methods training. Students can explore these issues of governance and policy in a cross-disciplinary way, making use of insights from politics, international relations, social policy, sociology, demography, gerontology and social statistics. This programme is specifically structured to enable students to shape their degree around their own particular interests in the fields of governance and policy more broadly, and will appeal to those not only from a social science background, but also to those with relevant work experience in the public, private and third sectors and beyond who wish to expand their skills and knowledge portfolio. In addition, it delivers extensive research training particularly suited to those who wish to pursue PhD study or a career where skills in research methodology may of relevance. This programme is accredited by the ESRC.

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 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 involves one or two sessions each week spread over the semester. For each module, students are 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

The aims of the programme are to:

- Knowledge and understanding of contemporary theoretical, conceptual and empirical debates in the study of governance and policy.
- Knowledge and understanding of philosophical and methodological debates in the study of politics and international relations.
- Knowledge and understanding and experience in the application of the principal methods of quantitative data collection and data analysis in social science research.
- Knowledge and understanding and experience in the practice of qualitative methods in social science research.
- The skills necessary to design and complete a dissertation on a specialist topic in the field of governance and policy.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

A1. Theoretical implications of different approaches to conceptualising governance and its impact on state and institutional structures, and on policy and policy-making.
A2. The principal methods of quantitative data collection and data analysis in social science research.
A3. The principal methods of qualitative approaches in social science research.
A4. Philosophical and methodological debates in politics and international relations and their impact on research design.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (A1-A4), seminars (A1-A4), computer workshops (A2), independent research (A1-A4).

Assessment Methods

Assessed coursework (A1-A4); dissertation (A1-A4).

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 the concept of governance and its implications for modern policy-making.
B3. Capacity to evaluate and synthesise a variety of materials (library, internet and other media) on aspects of global politics.
B4. Capacity to apply quantitative and qualitative methods to the study of political phenomenon.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (B1-B4), seminars (B1-B4), library workshop (B3), computer workshop (B4), independent research (B1-B4).

Assessment Methods

Assessed coursework (B1-B4), dissertation (B1-B4).

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 and presentation 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.
C6. Apply a range of qualitative and quantitative research techniques.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures (C4-C6), seminars (C1-C6), library workshop (C2, C3), computer workshop (C6), independent research (C1-C6)

Assessment Methods

Assessed coursework (C1-C6), dissertation (C1-C6).

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
Typical programme content
The MSc comprises six modules and a dissertation. The core module, Governance and Policy, provides the conceptual underpinnings, critical perspectives and empirical examples in relation to understanding issues of governance and policy-making. Students pick option modules from a range within Social Sciences disciplines. The Research Methods core modules provide the methodological training necessary to complete the MSc dissertation.

In the first semester, students take three compulsory modules. In the second semester, students take one compulsory module and two option modules. Not all modules will run each year. Students will receive guidance from the MSc coordinator in making their selection.

Programme details
The structure of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Of the modules shown against each part of your programme, some are compulsory (ie enrolment is automatic) and others are options. Against each part, you are directed to which modules are compulsory and which are options. Two of your option modules must be selected from PAIR offerings. The option modules shown below constitute an indicative list; there will always be choice but the options might vary between years. A full list of modules and rules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

The programme is normally studied over 12 months full-time.The taught component of the programme consists of 30 study weeks divided into two semesters during which time students study six modules (60 ECTS/120 CATS). Students who successful complete the taught component undertake a three-month period of supervised research for a Master's dissertation at a value of 30 ECTS/60 CATS).

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
RESM6001	Philosophy of Social Science Research 2020-21	5	Core
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1 2020-21	5	Core
RESM6004	Quantitative Methods 1 2020-21	5	Core
RESM6002	Research Design and Practice 2020-21	5	Core

Part I Optional Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6002	Contemporary Security Challenges 2020-21	10	Optional
PAIR6040	Ethics of Public Policy	10	Optional
PAIR6010	Governance and Policy	10	Optional
PAIR6001	International Relations Theories	10	Optional

Part I Optional Semester 2
It is mandatory to take RESM6006

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6036	Advanced Policy Analysis	10	Optional
PAIR6039	Foreign Aid and International Security	10	Optional
RESM6006	Qualitative Methods 2 2020-21	5	Optional

Part I Optional Whole Year

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6019	Special Paper 2020-21	10	Optional

Part II

Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6008	MSc Dissertation in Politics & International Relations 2021-22	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*** or ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes***. Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in ***section VI of the University Calendar***.

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, School 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.

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

Career Opportunities

The breadth of the MSc Governance and Policy 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 Alan Finlayson - University of East Anglia

Name: Dr Peter Allen – Bath 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 they take 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
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
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.
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
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. 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.
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.

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***.