

Programme Specification

MSc Global Politics: 2016-17

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 or Part time
Duration in months	Full time – 12 months following standard progression for a full time student. Part time – 27 months following standard progression for a part time student.
Accreditation details	N/A
Final award	MSc SocSci (Social Sciences)
Name of award	Global Politics
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	7
UCAS code	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics and International Relations
Programme Co-ordinator	Kamil Zwolski, Politics and International Relations MSc Coordinator
Date specification was written	01/10/2011
Date Programme was validated	2011/12
Date specification last updated	13/12/2016

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.

The programme is studied over 12 months full time, or 27 months part time.

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.

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 programme is designed both to equip students to undertake independent research in global politics and to develop skills that are of relevance to a broad range of careers in the public or private sector.

The aims of the programme are to provide you with:

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

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate extensive knowledge and rigorous understanding of the following:

- 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

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate the following key intellectual skills:

- 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

Written examinations and assessed coursework (B1-B3), dissertation (B1-B3).

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed 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

Typical programme content

The MSc comprises six modules and a dissertation. The core substantive module, One World, Many Theories: Understanding International Relations, provides the conceptual underpinnings, critical perspectives and empirical examples in relation to understanding global political relationships. Students pick optional modules from a range within Social Sciences disciplines, The Research Methods core modules provide the methodological training necessary to complete the MSc dissertation.

Special Features of the programme

In addition to the core and optional 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.

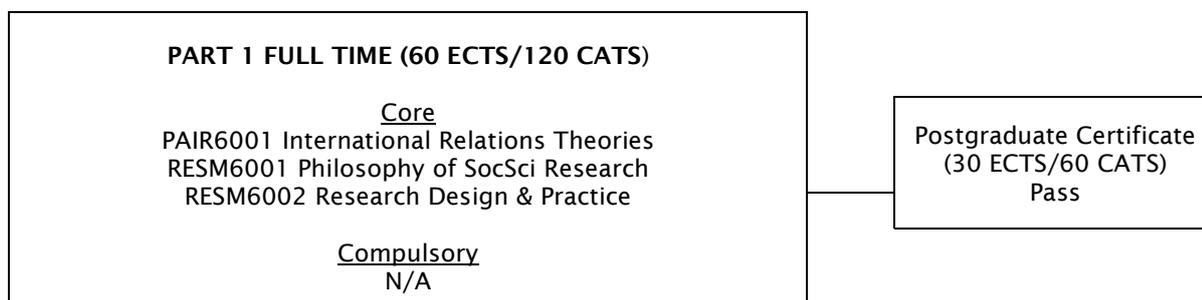
Programme details

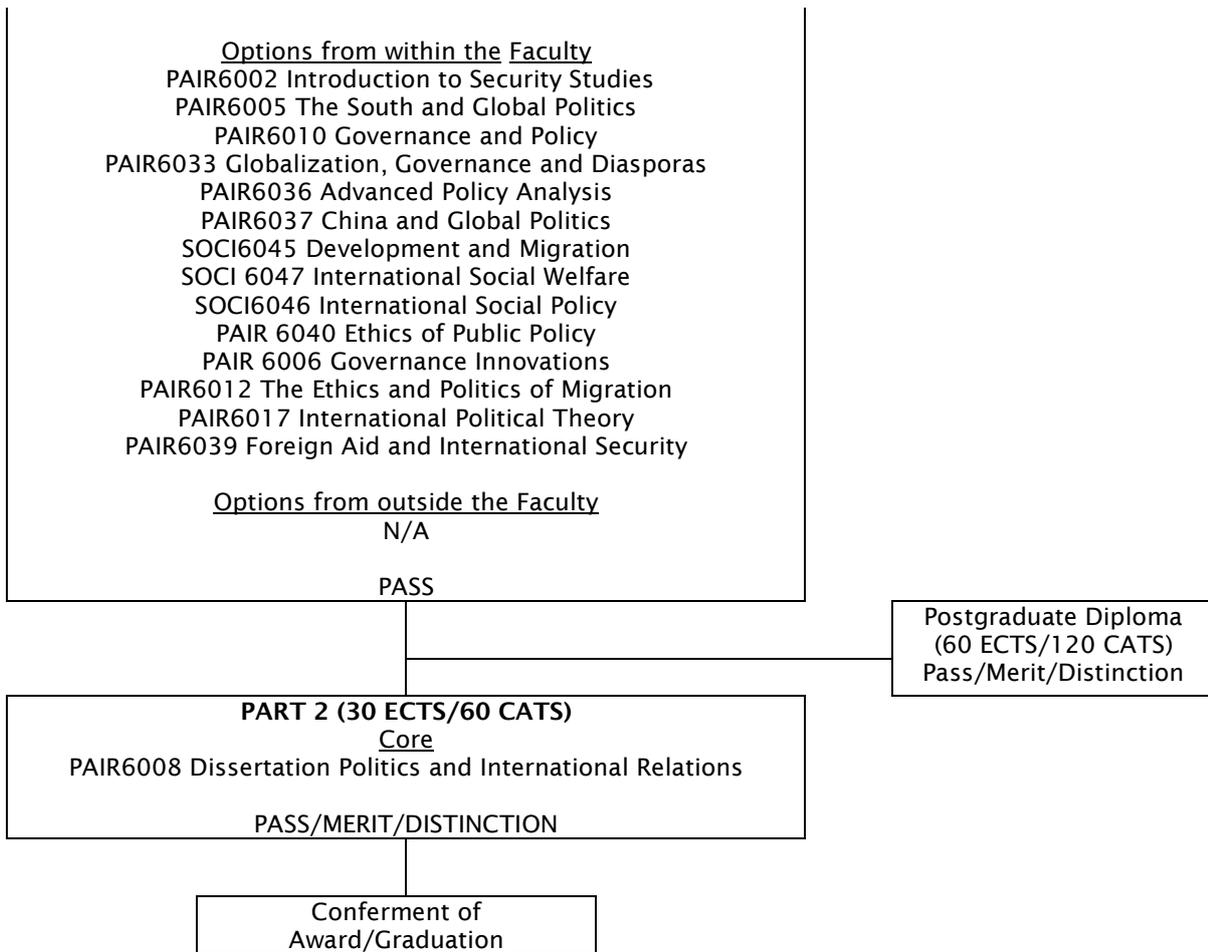
The structure of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Of the modules shown against each part of your programme, some are compulsory (ie enrolment is automatic) and others are optional. Against each part, you are directed to which modules are compulsory and which are optional. The optional modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A complete list of optional modules currently available on your programme can be found via the Student Record Self-Service system

(https://studentrecords.soton.ac.uk/BNNRPROD/bwkskpgr.showpage?page=ESC_PROGCAT_FINDPR).

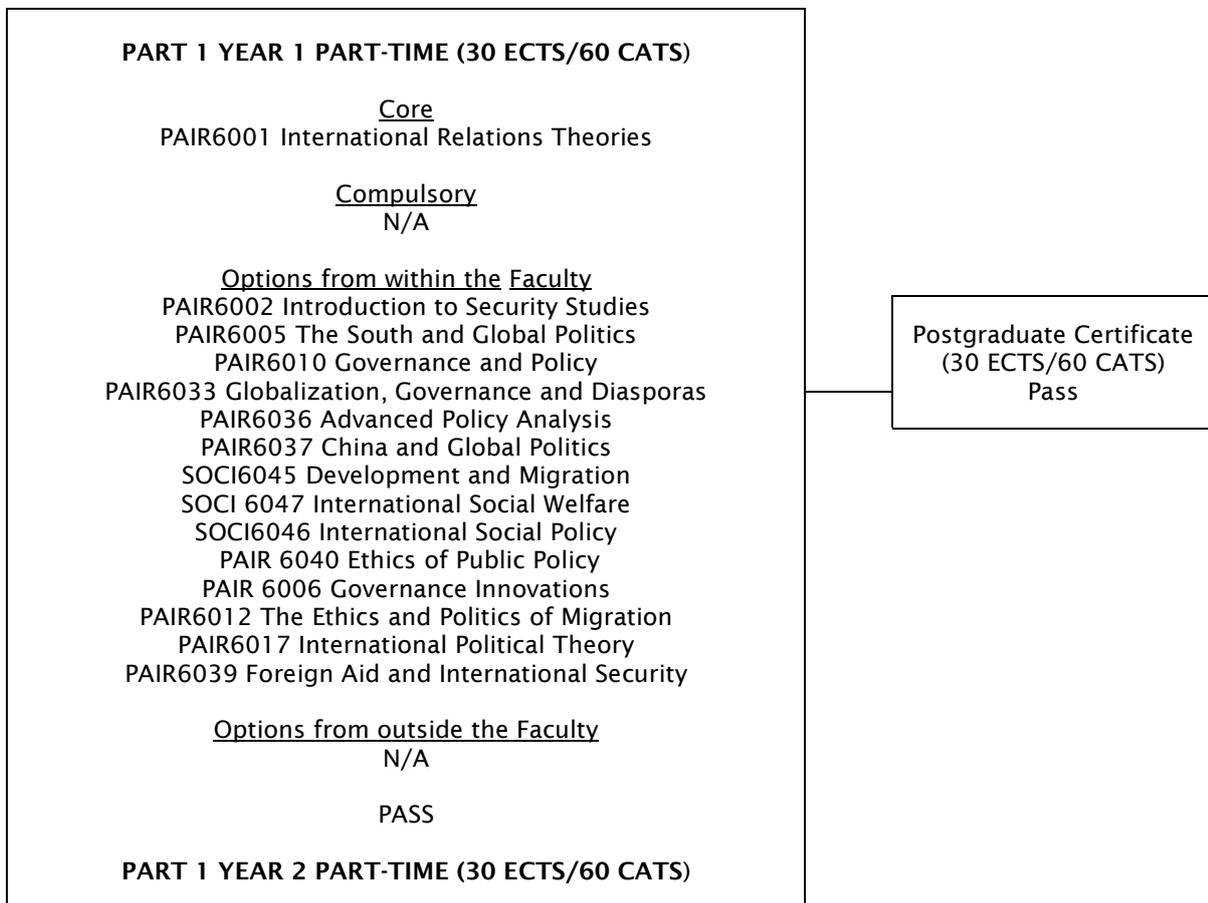
The programme is normally studied over 12 months full-time (or 27 months part-time). The taught component of the programme consists of 30 study weeks divided into two semesters during which time students study six modules (60 ECTS/120 CATS). Students who successfully complete the taught component undertake a three-month period of supervised research for a Master's dissertation (six months for part-time students) at a value of 30 ECTS/60 CATS).

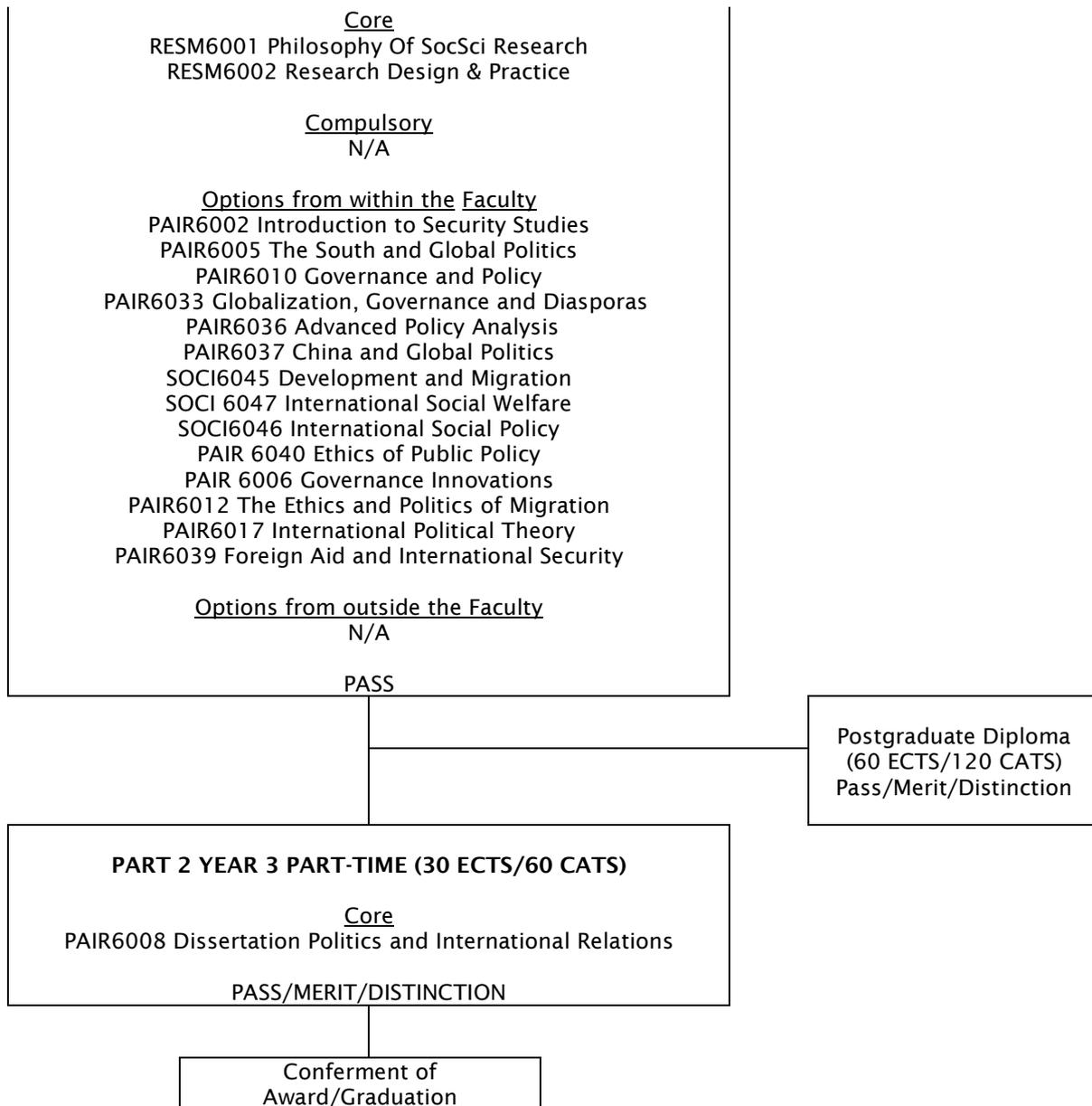
Full-Time Structure





Part-Time Structure





Additional Costs

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. Costs that students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 2.

Progression Requirements

Permission to proceed to the Master's dissertation is conditional upon achieving the necessary standard in the instructional part of the programme. If you fail to achieve the required standard at first attempt, you may be permitted to re-sit on one subsequent occasion. Candidates who pass the instructional part of the programme but at a standard below that required to proceed to MSc may be awarded a PG Diploma in Global Politics. Details of the standard required to proceed to MSc and for the award of PG Diploma are set out in the Guidelines for Board of Examiners for the PG Diploma/MSc.

The award of the Master's degree is conditional upon (a) passing the instructional part of the programme at Master's level and (b) successful completion of the Master's dissertation. In the event that the dissertation is not completed, or if the dissertation fails to achieve the required standard, you will be awarded the PG Diploma in Global Politics for which you have already qualified.

The programme follows the University's regulations for ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes*** as set out in the University Calendar (<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs-standalonemasters.html>).

Intermediate exit points (where available)

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

Qualification	Minimum overall credit in ECTS / CATS	Minimum ECTS/ CATS credits required at year of award
Postgraduate Diploma	at least 60/120	45/90
Postgraduate Certificate	at least 30/60	20/40

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 student owned 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 account for students which connects them 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 their timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. to them whilst on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Student Services Centre
- Enabling Services offering assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) assisting students with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career Destinations, 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
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- 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 Programme 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 for students making academic appeals
- 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

Criteria for admission

University Commitment

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Bachelor's degree	The normal criterion for admission is an upper second class honours degree in a relevant subject (social sciences, economics, history, and cognate fields) from a UK university or an equivalent qualification.		

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

English Language Proficiency

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to secure a minimum score in an approved English test. The minimum overall score for IELTS is 6.5, shown below:

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	6	6.5	6	6

Applicants whose test results fall short of the prescribed level are required to successfully resit the test or complete the five (or ten) week pre-session course in English for Academic Purposes at the University's Centre for Language Study, subject to eligibility criteria.

Academic background:

Entry is not confined to students who have studied politics or international relations before. Each year, we offer places to a number of students from other subject areas in the social sciences and humanities.

We also admit some students from science backgrounds, although we may want to interview such applicants before offering a place on the programme.

We also welcome applications from those who have relevant work experience and/or who have been away from education for some time, and such applicants are considered on a case by case basis.

Career Opportunities

The breadth of the MSc Global 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 Examiners for the programme

Name: Professor Nicholas Rengger
Institution: University of St Andrews

Name: Professor Richard Beardsworth (Contract begins January 2017).
Institution: University of Aberystwyth

Name: Dr Rosie Campbell
Institution: Birkbeck, University of London

Name: Dr Phil Parvin
Institution: 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 Programme 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 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 (or other appropriate guide) or online at (http://www.southampton.ac.uk/politics/postgraduate/taught_courses/msc_global_politics.page?#overview).

Appendix 1: Learning outcomes and Assessment Mapping

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
PAIR6001	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		
PAIR6008	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
RESM6001			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
RESM6002			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x

Module Code	Module Title	Coursework 1	Coursework 2	Coursework 3	Exam
PAIR6001	International Relations Theories	4000 word essay 40%	Reaction Papers x 10 30%	Simulation 30%	
PAIR6008	Dissertation Politics & International Relations	12500/15000 word dissertation 100%			
RESM6001	Philosophy of SocSci Research	2500-3000 Word essay 100%			
RESM6002	Research Design & Practice	2500-3000 word research proposal 100%			

Appendix 2: Additional Costs

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 typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

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.

Main Item	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Stationery	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Textbooks	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Printing and Photocopying Costs	<p>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</p>
Optional Visits (e.g. conferences, museums, galleries)	<p>You will normally be expected to cover the cost of travel and admission, unless otherwise specified in the module profile.</p>
Illegible Exam Scripts	<p>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.</p>
<p>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. 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.</p>	

