

Programme Specification

International Politics (Research) (2017-18)

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	Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC)
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of award	International Politics (Research)
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	N/A
Programme code	7984
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics And International Relations 2007
Programme Lead	Kamil Zwolski (kmz1y11)

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 comprises modules which also 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 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. Particular stress is placed on the development of key social science research skills and as such the programme is accredited by the ESRC.

The aims of the programme are to provide you with:

1. Knowledge and understanding of the main approaches and challenges to the study of global politics

2. Knowledge and understanding of philosophical and methodological debates in the study of politics and international relations
3. Knowledge and understanding and experience in the application of the principal methods of quantitative data collection and data analysis in social science research.
4. Knowledge and understanding and experience in the practice of qualitative methods in social science research.
5. 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 a student will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The main approaches to the study of global politics, and the issues and events that challenge our contemporary understandings.
- 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

Written examinations and assessed coursework (A1-A4), dissertation (A1-A4).

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme a student 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.

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 workshops (B4), independent research (B1-B4).

Assessment Methods

Written examinations and assessed coursework (B1-B4), dissertation (B1-B4)

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme a student will be able to:

- C1. Communicate complex ideas in a sophisticated manner appropriate to graduate level study.
- C2. Communicate complex ideas in a sophisticated manner appropriate to graduate level study.
- 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 workshops (C6), independent research (C1-C6).

Assessment Methods

Written examinations and 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.

Part I

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6001	International Relations Theories	10	Compulsory
RESM6001	Philosophy of Social Science Research	5	Compulsory
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	5	Compulsory
RESM6004	Quantitative Methods 1	5	Compulsory
RESM6002	Research Design and Practice	5	Compulsory

Part I Mandatory Optional

Students must select two modules (10 ECTS / 20 CATS) from the following modules.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
RESM6006	Qualitative Methods 2	5	Optional
RESM6007	Quantitative Methods II A	5	Optional
RESM6005	Survey Design	5	Optional

Part I Optional

Students must select two modules (20 ECTS / 40 CATS) from the following modules.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
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PAIR6036	Advanced Policy Analysis	10	Optional
PAIR6043	Comparative Public Administration	10	Optional
PAIR6002	Contemporary Security Challenges	10	Optional
PAIR6005	Development and International Politics	10	Optional
PAIR6012	Ethics & Politics of Migration	10	Optional
PAIR6040	Ethics of Public Policy	10	Optional
PAIR6039	Foreign Aid & Inter Security	10	Optional
PAIR6010	Governance and Policy	10	Optional
PAIR6006	Innovations in Democratic Governance	10	Optional
PAIR6017	International Political Theory	10	Optional
PAIR6009	Public Policy and Democracy	10	Optional
PAIR6047	Security Theory (20)	10	Optional
PAIR6019	Special Paper	10	Optional

Part II

Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR6008	MSc Dissertation in Politics & International Relations 2018-19	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) or the University's

regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html) as set out in the General Academic Regulations 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.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Criteria for admission

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.

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-sessional 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.

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Bachelors 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.		
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Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

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

Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

The table below sets out the English proficiency requirements for this programme in terms of the IELTS test. We accept a range of other English proficiency tests including TOEFL and Cambridge Advanced/Proficiency. For full details of the recognised tests and the equivalent requirements in those tests please see www.southampton.ac.uk/admissions-language.

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
7.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5

Career Opportunities

The breadth of the MSc International Politics (Research) 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: Richard Beardsworth - University of Aberystwyth

Name: Rosie Campbell - Birkbeck College University of London

Name: 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 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	<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>
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.