

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	International Politics
Award	MA
School	School of Policy & Global Affairs
Department or equivalent	Department of International Politics
Programme code	PSINPO
Type of study	Full Time / Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

At the heart of contemporary international politics are new challenges to enduring problems. Increasing concerns such as poverty, terrorism, conflict, human rights, economic development, health and the global environment make the study of International Politics a unique and exciting challenge. The MA International Politics programme provides you with an opportunity to examine and critically evaluate issues of the contemporary world, with a particular emphasis on understanding global policymaking on many of the above-mentioned issues. It covers the area of international politics, both theory and practice, including development and globalisation, civil society and social movements, history and religion, global political economy, governance and international institutions, security studies, foreign policy and diplomacy. As a student in the MA International Politics degree programme you will therefore study the complexities of economic, social and political globalisation that affect the relations of government and society with other countries and international actors.

The core module for this programme is Theories of International Politics (IPM125), which you will complement with a number of elective modules (up to 105 credits). You will also write a Dissertation (worth 60 credits), and will be required to attend Dissertation-related workshops to provide you with the tools you will need to fulfil this very important part of the programme. For the elective modules, you are free to choose from a wide range of modules offered by the Department of International Politics, as well as from modules offered by other departments/centres where access to MA International Politics students has been granted (these modules are listed later in the document).

Aims

- To provide you with an advanced specialist education in the area of international politics.
- To enable you to develop the ability to examine and critically evaluate the complex structure of relationships between governments, transnational actors, transnational networks and intergovernmental organizations.
- To provide you with an advanced conceptualization of global political issues in the 21st century.
- To ground you within contemporary theoretical debates pertinent to the study of International Politics.
- To enable you to understand rapid political change in the contemporary world.
- To enable you to develop your analytical capacities through a variety of learning techniques.

- To prepare you for a diverse range of careers, as well as provide contextual knowledge that will be applicable for life-long learning in a rapidly changing political and social world.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Apply advanced concepts and theoretical approaches within International Politics and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches in a wide range of different competing contexts and real-world examples.
- Analyse and articulate the means and processes through which political actors mobilize support for their positions on global issues.
- Analyse to an advanced level the complex and changing roles of governments, transnational actors, intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations and other types of actors (such as private actors) within global politics.
- Analyse the different ways in which global social and political relationships affect, and are affected by, local and global, economic, cultural, religious and political differences.
- Understand how different theoretical positions in International Politics tend to be associated with different substantive concepts, methodological positions, research strategies, research methods and underlying philosophical positions.
- Evaluate to an advanced level the interrelationships between evidence and theory in a wide range of different contexts.

Skills

- Incorporate, analyse and articulate complex political ideas.
- Analyse and interpret critically different kinds of research evidence to an advanced level.
- Challenge received explanations of topics and controversies in social and political life.
- Place individual political events in the wider context of processes of political change.
- Make judgements based on sound evidential and theoretical reasoning.
- Distinguish theoretical, empirical and normative statements from each other, in writing on and discussion of international politics.
- Define advanced abstract concepts, used in the analysis of international politics, and utilise them with rigour and consistency.
- Critically read different types of documents (such as policy documents, political documents, technical papers, media outputs) to interpret the intentions of political actors, the targets of their actions and the possible responses they will receive.
- Gather, retrieve and synthesise information from a number of different primary and secondary data sources in order to understand the complexities of issues in social and political life.
- Read and describe accurately complex written materials.
- Communicate clearly in writing and oral forms.
- Study and reflect on ideas independently whilst developing self-reliance and confidence.
- Assess the value and relevance of the ideas of others.
- Evaluate complex arguments and the extent of their factual support.
- Reflect on your own learning and make use of constructive feedback.
- Manage your own learning self-critically.

Values and attitudes:

- Understand, respect and engage with those who do not share your own political values.
- Produce written materials that indicate in a precise and honest manner what is your own work and what is attributable to others.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The educational aims outlined above are achieved through a combination of lectures, class discussions/seminars, group work, student presentations and practical workshops, case studies and simulation exercises, reflective reading and research-based writing.

Teaching is supported by a personal tutorial and supervision system and a general lecture series with outside speakers, both professional and academic. As a student in this programme you are also invited to attend PhD workshops organised by doctoral students in the Department.

You are required to complete a dissertation that will be grounded in a specialised series of Dissertation workshops, where you will receive appropriate research training tailored to your dissertation in international politics.

You are required to undertake extensive reading and independent study in order to understand the topics covered in lectures and classes and to broaden and deepen your knowledge.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

In taught International Politics modules you will be assessed by written coursework (100% of the module mark). There are no exams at the MA level.

Coursework for International Politics modules is typically a 3,000-word essay for 15 credit modules, or an equivalent type of written piece (such as a policy paper or a research proposal – see the cases of IPM127 and IPM111 respectively). The formal assessment in taught International Politics modules aims to help you develop your analytical written skills. All other skills and educational aims associated with the MA International Politics degree programme will be developed through a range of summative assessments. These may take the form of student presentations, book reviews, article reviews, short essays, role plays and case studies, policy memos and/or write-ups that reflect on an out-of-class activity or engagement with events and activities around London that form live-action examples of concepts taught in the classroom. Details will be provided within your modules during the teaching term.

In IPM125 (Theories of International Politics) your formal assessment includes a 3,000-word essay engaging with the theoretical paradigms explored in this module, and performing the role of ‘academic discussant’ on one week’s topic. This role requires you to present key readings for that week, identifying the main conceptual and theoretical debates to be discussed in that week’s session.

Please note that modules offered from other departments/centres (see later for a list) may contain a different set of assessment requirements.

In addition, as a student in the MA International Politics degree programme, you will have to complete a Dissertation (60 credits). As part of this requirement you will have to write a 4,000-word research proposal where you are asked to present a research design that demonstrates the ideas you want to develop in your Dissertation, and the research methods you want to employ, are academically sound. On successful completion of the research proposal you will be allowed to continue to the actual Dissertation. The Dissertation is a 15,000-word long piece of self-directed research, focusing on a specific issue, phenomenon, event and/or actor within the study of International Politics. You will be assigned a relevant Dissertation Supervisor (normally a Faculty member), who advises you on the appropriate approach and stages in investigating the topic. You can expect an equivalent of three hours of supervision from your assigned supervisor while working on your dissertation and dissertation proposal. At the same time, the Department operates an open door policy: you are welcome to consult any member of staff, in addition to your own supervisor.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. Feedback will normally include a provisional grade or mark (to be confirmed in the MA Boards) and comments explaining the provisional grade/mark awarded. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass the Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass all six taught modules before you are formally allowed to progress to the following part, the Dissertation writing stage.

The Pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a Postgraduate Certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:
 - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the programme specification), and

- It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
- A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
- An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your original module mark shall be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

2. Resit: where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt. If you do not meet the pass the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Dissertation	7	60	33	With Distinction	70
Taught	7	120	67	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70

				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?*

Taught component

The taught modules are completed in Terms 1 and 2, normally over a single academic year for Full-Time students and over two academic years for Part-Time students. You are required to take a total of 120 credits in taught modules. There is one core module (15 credits) and the remaining credits will be made up of elective modules that you must choose from the list of electives opened to students in the MA International Politics. The number of elective modules you take will vary depending on the number of 15 and 30 (from other departments) credit modules you choose. All modules run for a minimum of eleven weeks (or one term). Students in this programme are eligible to take all MA courses offered by the IP Department.

Full Time route:

As a Full Time student you study on a full-time basis over 12 months (one academic year). You take 60 credits in Term 1, 60 credits in Term 2, and complete your dissertation (IPM111) in Term 3 (with submission in September of that year). You must also attend the Dissertation workshops that are offered by the Department as part of IPM111, a compulsory and very important part of your MA programme.

Part Time route:

As a Part-Time student you study over 24 months (two academic years). You take 60 credits in each of your two years, plus a dissertation in the summer of your second year (with submission in December of that year). In your first year you must take IPM125 Theories of International Politics. In your second year you must attend the Dissertation workshops that are offered by the Department as part of IPM111, a compulsory and very important part of your MA programme.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Theories of International Politics	IPM125	15	C	N	7
Understanding Security in the 21st Century	IPM101	15	E	Y	7
Global Capitalism: Past, Present, Future	IPM126	15	E	Y	7
Political Economy of Global Finance	IPM106	15	E	Y	7
Global Governance	IPM108	15	E	Y	7
Strategy, Diplomacy and Decision-making	IPM127	15	E	Y	7
US Foreign Policy	IPM113	15	E	Y	7
Economic Diplomacy	IPM114	15	E	Y	7
Foreign Policy Analysis	IPM115	15	E	Y	7

Theories of Global Political Economy	IPM128	15	E	Y	7
Global Ethics: Principles, Power and Politics	IPM129	15	E	Y	7
Human Rights and the Transformation of World Politics	IPM130	15	E	Y	7
Russian Foreign Policy from Stalin to Putin	IPM120	15	E	Y	7
Global Media Industries	SGM308	30	E	N	7
Developments in Communication Policy	SGM309	15	E	Y	7
Criminal Minds	SGM304	15	E	Y	7
Public International Law	LMM126	30	E	N	7
Law and War	LMM138	30	E	N	7
Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in International Law	LMM129	30	E	N	7
Qualitative Research Methods	SAM004	15	E	Y	7
Applied Qualitative Research Methods	SAM005	15	E	Y	7

Dissertation component

You are required to complete a 60-credit dissertation in order to be eligible for the award of MA. You are normally required to pass all taught modules before progressing to the dissertation.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
MA Dissertation	IPM111	60	C	N	7

**Please note that this is an indicative list. These modules are subject to change depending on staff availability, student demand and some are offered on a biennial basis. There is no guarantee that every elective module listed above will run.*

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

The skills of International Politics graduates are of direct relevance to a wide range of professions including those in teaching, research, civil service, media communications, journalism, international organisations, NGOs, international finance and the private sector. 80% of City's 2010 International Politics graduates were in employment or further study 6 months after graduation. Employers included UNESCO, the Open Rights Group and the United Nations.

For more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:

<https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/your-career> .

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no study abroad options as part of the MA International Politics degree programme.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no placements as part of the MA International Politics degree programme. During the academic year, as a student in this programme you will be invited to attend a number of Careers event organized by the Department. In the past we have organized, for example, an "International Politics Careers Day" which explored career opportunities with International Politics degrees and provided:

- Talks by speakers within the field (including City alumni). Previous speakers have included staff from the UK Department for International Development, the UK Ministry of Justice, UNESCO, the EU Commission and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).
- Talks by careers consultants and volunteering coordinators.
- CV, applications and volunteering drop-in sessions with careers professionals.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

There are no professional qualifications as part of the MA International Politics degree programme.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

You should have or expect to gain a first or upper second class honours (or equivalent) degree in Politics, the Social Sciences or Humanities, Business or Law from an internationally-recognised institution. However, we will also consider applications from students with a degree in any other subject where applicants have gained significant professional experience in a related field of employment or research.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a postgraduate course of study:

- * A first degree from a UK university or from the CNAA.
- * A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia or the USA.
- * GCE O-level/GCSE English language or English literature, grade C minimum.
- * Cambridge ESOL CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English) at grade C or above.
- * An overall score of 6.5 in the English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum of 6.0 for each subtest.
- * Satisfactory standard in the verbal section of the Princeton Test (GMAT).
- * US SAT with 500 in verbal performance.
- * Warwick English Language Test (WELT) with pass grades of BBC minimum.

* Other evidence of proficiency in the English language which satisfies the board of studies concerned.

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS

Equivalent qualifications from an overseas university will be considered.

IT SKILLS

You are expected to be computer literate.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Programme is committed to equal opportunities. The admissions decision will rest on the qualifications, needs and aspirations of the applicant.

RPL/RPEL Requirements

RPL/RPEL: You may apply for RPL/RPEL for a minimum of one module and a maximum of 25% of the overall credits for the programme (taught modules only).

Exemptions are not awarded for programmes/qualifications that were awarded five years ago or longer, prior to the enrolment date for the intended programme of study at City. Programmes/qualifications which were awarded over five years ago may be considered towards RPL/RPEL requests if the candidate can provide supporting evidence which gives an account of ways in which learning achieved through the programme/qualification has been applied actively and updated within the past five years.

Former students of City who have been withdrawn from a programme due to academic failure are not normally permitted to RPL/RPEL any awarded credits back onto the same programme within the School.

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