

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION– POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

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

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed at the United Nations in 1948 human rights has been a central feature of international politics. The protection of human rights is set out as a key responsibility of states and the international community as a whole, the right of self-determination was affirmed during decolonization, and the promotion of human rights inspired the expansion of global civil society throughout the 20th century. The importance of human rights has only increased since the end of the Cold War, as they are not only fundamental to the work of international organisations and increasingly a feature of the foreign policy of states, but they have also inspired profound global transformations. From the founding of the International Criminal Court, to the discourse about the Responsibility to Protect, and to the increase in global social movements opposing abuses and claiming new rights, the importance of human rights has never been greater.

The MA in International Politics and Human Rights provides you with an understanding of human rights, in theory and practice, as they have transformed contemporary international politics. Human rights are placed in the context of a constellation of changes in international politics in the 20th and 21st centuries, and you are introduced to the historical and political controversies that human rights generate. Do human rights offer universal protections, or do they provide ideological cover for neo-imperialist powers? Can human rights provide protection to individuals in a way that supersedes the nation-state, or do they serve the interests of powerful states? Should human rights be concerned with the minimalist needs of security and subsistence, or should they aspire to grander visions of global justice?

In completing the MA in International Politics and Human Rights you will have the opportunity to complement your two core modules on human rights with additional modules covering multiple facets of contemporary international politics, including courses on foreign policy, global political economy, and peace and security. Additionally, you can take modules from other departments at City, University of London (as specified later in the document) to reflect your particular interests in human rights and international politics.

In completing the programme you will gain the analytical, research and communication skills required for understanding and engaging in your world, and which will prepare you for careers in human rights organisations, government agencies, international organisations, journalism and other fields requiring strong written and oral communication skills and a critical understanding of international politics.

Aims

- To provide you with an advanced specialist education in the area of human rights and international politics.
- To enable you to develop your analytical capacities and the ability to examine and critically evaluate the complex structure of relationships between governments, transnational actors, transnational networks and intergovernmental organisations.
- To provide you with an advanced conceptualisation of global political issues in the 21st century.
- To ground you within contemporary theoretical debates pertinent to the study of human rights and international politics.
- To enable you to understand rapid political change in the contemporary world.
- To enable you to develop your analytical capacities and the ability to examine and critically assess complicated issues and debates to a high level.
- 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 human rights and international politics and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches in a wide range of different competing contexts.
- Analyse and articulate to an advanced level the means and processes through which political actors mobilise support for their positions on global issues using human rights.
- Analyse to an advanced level the complex and changing roles of governments, transnational actors, intergovernmental organisations, international non-governmental organisations 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 and Human Rights 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.
- 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.
- Critically evaluate policy documents, political positions, technical papers, and media output in terms of their effects on received ideas and extant institutions.
- Make judgements based on sound evidential and theoretical reasoning.

- Reflect your own learning and make use of constructive feedback.
- Manage your own learning self-critically.
- 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 human rights and international politics, and utilise them with rigour and consistency.
- Read political documents and use other sources of information, to interpret the intentions of political actors, the targets of their actions and the possible responses they will receive.
- Place individual political events in the wider context of processes of political change.
- Read and describe accurately complex written materials.
- Communicate clearly in writing and in presentations.
- 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.
- Use both primary and secondary data sources to construct complex research.

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 are achieved through a combination of lectures, class discussions/seminars, students' presentations and practical workshops. Teaching is supported by a personal tutorial and supervision system and a general lecture series with outside speakers, both professional and academic. As MA student you are also invited to attend PhD workshops organised by doctoral students in the Department. Modules may include in-class presentations that form part of the assessment in order to increase your absorption of the matter and sharpen presentation skills.

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 and human rights.

In addition, core modules will be structured to build in real-world examples of how taught matter can be concretely applied. Module leaders will engage students in events and activities around London that form a live-action examples of concepts taught in the classroom.

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); i.e. there are no exams. IPM127 (Strategy, Diplomacy and Decision-making) differs slightly from this rule. Due to the module's more practical nature the assessment includes written coursework and performance in class exercises. Elective modules opened to International Politics students but offered by other Departments/Schools (as mentioned earlier) may contain a different set of assessment requirements. In addition, as a student in the MA International Politics and Human Rights degree programme you will have to complete a Dissertation (60 credits or one third of your overall mark).

Coursework for the core modules in International Politics and Human rights is typically a 3,000-word essay, or an equivalent type of written piece (such as a policy paper or a research proposal). Optional 15 credit modules are typically assessed by a 3,000-word essay.

Many MA modules contain not only formative (formally assessed) coursework, but also summative assessments. These may take the form of presentations, book reviews, article reviews, and critical reflections on a set of theories, policy memos, write-ups that reflect on an out-of-class activity, or short essays. As a rule, these types of work are due to be submitted at the end of the reflective learning weeks. Where applicable, details will be provided within modules and/or by the Programme Director during the course of the term.

The Dissertation is a 15,000 words long piece of self-directed research, focusing on a specific issue, phenomenon and/or event within the study of International Politics and Human Rights. 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 are two core modules amounting to 15 credits each and the remaining credits must be made up from elective modules. 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 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 IPM129 Global Ethics: Principles, Power and Politics and are also strongly recommended to complete IPM130 Human Rights and the Transformation of World 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
Human Rights and the Transformation of World Politics	IPM130	15	C	N	7

Global Ethics: Principles, Power and Politics	IPM129	15	C	N	7
Understanding Security in the 21st Century	IPM101	15	E	Y	7
Theories of International Politics	IPM125	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
US Foreign Policy	IPM113	15	E	Y	7
Religion in Global Politics	IPM119	15	E	Y	7
Strategy, diplomacy and decision-making	IPM127	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
Russian Foreign Policy from Stalin to Putin	IPM120	15	E	Y	7
Developments in Communication Policy	SGM309	15	E	Y	7
Global Media Industries	SGM308	30	E	N	7
Criminal Minds	SGM304	15	E	Y	7
International Human Rights in Law and Practice	LMM128	30	E	N	7
International Criminal Law: Crimes & Institutions	LMM173	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 and Human Rights degree programme.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no placements as part of the MA International Politics and Human Rights degree programme.

During the academic year, as a student in this programme you will be invited to attend the Department's "International Politics Careers Day" which explores career opportunities with International Politics degrees and provides:

- 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 and Human Rights 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. 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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