

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		2017/18			
Awarding institution		Teaching institution			
University of York		University of York			
Department(s)					
History Politics					
Award(s) and programme title(s)			Level of qualification		
MA in Contemporary History and International Politics			Level 7 (Masters)		
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards					
PG Diploma in Contemporary History and International Politics					
PG Certificate in Contemporary History and International Politics					
Admissions criteria					
Successful completion of BA degree in history, politics, or in cognate discipline, generally at Upper Second level, or equivalent overseas BA qualification. Those with English as a second language with IELTS score of 7.0 or equivalent.					
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study					
Programme	Length (years) and status	Start dates/months	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MA	12 Months F/T 24 Months P/T	N/A	X		
Diploma	9 Months F/T 18 Months P/T	N/A	X		
Certificate	6 Months F/T 12 Months P/T (Equivalent)	N/A	X		
Language of study		English			
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
None					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide knowledge and understanding of international political and contemporary history, circa 1900 to date; • To provide knowledge and understanding of methods and theories associated with the study of modern political organisation and ideas; • To provide a supportive and stimulating research environment enabling students to work 					

- independently within a clearly defined structure of regular discussion and supervision;
- To explore in depth specific themes reflecting the unique expertise of both departments; and
- To prepare for independent research.

Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):

- To allow the student to complete a long essay synthesising existing scholarship by independent study.

Additionally for the Masters:

- To develop the academic, personal and professional skills required to equip a graduate to undertake PhD research or make immediate impact upon employment in a relevant field;
- To provide a foundation for graduate level research into contemporary history and international politics;
- To provide stimulating modules to equip students with the specialist knowledge and understanding which will enable them to develop their interests in and make important contributions to their chosen field(s); and
- To allow students to complete a dissertation by independent study, involving the collection and analysis of primary sources and relating and interpreting them with reference to existing scholarship, where appropriate, in *both* disciplines: contemporary history and international politics.

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:

A: Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge and understanding of:
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:

1. A broad range of contemporary history and international politics;
2. Key themes in political thought and theory;
3. The theoretical and methodological challenges presented by the study of contemporary history;
4. Issues concerning the interpretation of various kinds of sources used by historians and political scientists since circa 1900; and

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- Seminar teaching (1-7)
- Independent study (1-7)
- Training workshops/ lectures (4, 5)
- Individual meetings with tutors/ supervisors (1-7)

<p>5. The research techniques appropriate to various forms of contemporary history and international politics.</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>6. Knowledge and understanding of an appropriate area of specialisation, developed in consultation with a supervisor.</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>7. Knowledge and understanding of an appropriate area of research-led specialisation, devised in consultation with a supervisor to collect and critically analyse primary source materials.</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays (outcomes 1-5) • Dissertation proposal (2-5) • Dissertation (1-5, 7)
B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate familiarity with and the use of a range of research methods and tools (for example, library and archival catalogues and online databases); 2. Demonstrate familiarity with and the use of recognized discipline-related methods of bibliography and citation; 3. Demonstrate the ability interpret primary and secondary sources; 4. To apply, explore and develop (1-3) through seminar debate, supervisory discussion and independent research; 5. Demonstrate the ability to articulate ideas lucidly and persuasively; and 6. Demonstrate the ability to present lengthy and complex arguments in writing. 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars (1-5) • Workshops (1, 2) • Tutorials/ Supervisions (1-7)

<p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>7. Demonstrate the ability to analyze with knowledge and understanding an appropriate area of specialisation, in independent study in consultation with a supervisor.</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>8. Demonstrate the ability to complete a substantial piece of independent research, supported by an academic supervisor. This dissertation must use primary sources and relate them to appropriate scholarships in History <i>and</i> International Politics.</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays (1-6) • Dissertation proposal (1-5) • Long essay (1-7) • Dissertation (1-6, 8)
B: (ii) Skills – transferable	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage his/her own time effectively; 2. Demonstrate appropriate professional conduct within a range of learning environments; 3. Communicate effectively (including informal debate); 4. Prepare written documents and present them in a professional manner; 5. Undertake written work to formal deadlines; and 6. Make effective and efficient use of electronic research resources. <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>7. Communicate effectively (including the formal presentation of research before an audience).</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>8. Engage in the independent organisation and management of research, data collection, analysis and writing; and</p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision (1-3, 6) • Seminars (1-3, 6-9) • Workshops (2, 3, 7, 9)

<p>9. Communicate effectively (including the formal presentation of research before an audience).</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays and dissertation (1, 3-9) • Dissertation Proposal (1, 3-9)
<p>C: Experience and other attributes</p>	
<p>Able to: <i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in group seminars; individual supervisions; graduate discussion groups; research training; the regular research seminars of the Departments. <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Undertake independent research. 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and learning activities available through departments. <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays and dissertation (1-2) • Dissertation Proposal (1-2)
<p>Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)</p>	
<p>None</p>	
<p>University award regulations</p>	
<p>To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.</p>	

Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website:

www.york.ac.uk/history/student-intranet/postgraduates/taught-ma/ma-assessment

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website: www.york.ac.uk/history/student-intranet/postgraduates/taught-ma/ma-assessment

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Masters

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
The Making of the Contemporary World 20 credits Core	CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option	Dissertation ISM 90 credits Core	
CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option	CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option		
Research Training Module (10 credits)			

Masters PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
The Making of the Contemporary World [Core] (20 credits)	CHIP Option (20 credits)	Non substantive preparation for the dissertation	
Research Training Module (10 credits)			

Year two:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
CHIP Option (20 credits)	CHIP Option (20 credits)	Dissertation ISM (90 credits) Core	

Postgraduate Diploma

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
The Making of the Contemporary World 20 credits Core	CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option	Long Essay 30 credits Core
CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option	CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option	
Research Training Module (10 credits)		

Postgraduate Diploma PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
The Making of the Contemporary World [Core] (20 credits)	CHIP Option (20 credits)	Non substantive preparation for the long essay
Research Training Module (10 credits)		

Year Two

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
CHIP Option (20 credits)	CHIP Option (20 credits)	Long Essay (30 credits) Core

Postgraduate Certificate

The Certificate is awarded on the basis of students achieving 60 credits including the Core Modules, and any two of three CHIP Option Modules.

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
The Making of the Contemporary World 20 credits Core	CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option	
CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option	CHIP Option Module 20 credits Option	

Postgraduate Certificate PT

Year One:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
The Making of the Contemporary World [Core] (20 credits)	CHIP Option (20 credits)	

Year Two:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
CHIP Option (20 credits)	CHIP Option (20 credits)	

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards

Summative Assessments

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
Wk 10 Core Assessed Essay	Wk 2 AuT Option Assessed Essay	Wk 1 SpT Option 1 Assessed Essay	End SuVac Dissertation ISM Dissertation	AuT Wk 7
	Wk 10 Dissertation Proposal	Wk 1 SpT Option 2 Assessed Essay	<i>End SuVac Diploma Long Essay Assessed Essay</i>	

Formative Assessments

Please note that this is the likely pattern for formative assessment, but that the timing and format of formative assessments is subject to the convenor's discretion. Not all modules will necessarily include formative assessments and it will depend on the department where the module is based.

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Wk 5 Core Essay	Wk 6 Option Essay	Various ISM & Long Essay Workshop Presentation
Wk 6 Option Essay	Wk 6 Option Essay	

Reassessments

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
		Wk 2 Dissertation Proposal		AuT Wk 7
		Wk 10 Core Assessed Essay		
		Wk 10 AuT & SpT Options Assessed Essay		

Boards

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
		Wk 6 Progression		AuT Wk 7

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level ¹	Credit value ²	Prerequisites	Assessment rules ³	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment ⁴	Independent Study Module? ⁵
The Making of the Contemporary World	HIS00053M	7	20	None	None	AuT Wk 10 – Assessed Essay (4,000 words)	N
MA Research Training Module	HIS00086M	7	10	None	P/F	500 word dissertation proposal Submitted SpT wk 10	N
Dissertation	HIS00087M	7	90	MA Research Training Module	N/C	End SuVac - Dissertation (20,000 words max)	Y

¹ The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

² The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

³ **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

⁴ AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

⁵ **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Option module tables

History

Options are closely based on staff research interests and will, therefore, vary from year to year depending on staff availability. Options for this cohort will be circulated to students before their arrival at York.

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
For a list of modules running this year, current students should see: https://www.york.ac.uk/history/student-intranet/postgraduates/taught/options/ (York user id and password required). Prospective students can find an indicative list here: https://www.york.ac.uk/history/postgraduate/taught/ma/chip/	Various	7/M	20	None	None	Either: SpT Wk 2 – Assessed Essay (4,000 words) for AuT Options Or: SuT Wk 1 – Assessed Essay (4,000 words) for SpT Options	N

Politics

Options are closely based on staff research interests and will, therefore, vary from year to year depending on staff availability. Options for this cohort will be circulated to students before their arrival at York.

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
For a list of modules running this year, current students should see: https://www.york.ac.uk/politics/ma-pgt/pg-modules/	Various	7/M	20	None	None	Either: SpT Wk 2 – Assessed Essay (4,000 words) for AuT Options Or: SuT Wk 1 – Assessed Essay (4,000 words) for SpT Options	N

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Students may transfer into or out of the programme in accordance with University Regulations. Transfers will be dependent upon student numbers and available places.	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
None	
Quality and Standards	
The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.	
Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. 	
More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	September 2017
Departmental web page:	www.york.ac.uk/history
Please note	
The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.	
Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.	
The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.	