

# UNIVERSITY OF YORK

## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<b>This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:</b>		September 2017			
<b>Awarding institution</b>		<b>Teaching institution</b>			
University of York		University of York			
<b>Department(s)</b>					
Politics					
<b>Award(s) and programme title(s)</b>			<b>Level of qualification</b>		
MA in International Relations			Level 7 (Masters)		
<b>Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards</b>					
PG Diploma in International Relations					
PG Certificate in International Relations					
<b>Admissions criteria</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Language requirements: IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in each component); PTE: 61, with no less than 55 in each component; CAE and CPE (from January 2015): 176, with no less than 169 in each component; CAE (before January 2015): 65, with 'Good' in writing; CPE (before January 2015): C; TOEFL: 87, with a minimum of 21 in each component; Trinity ISE: level 3, with Merit in all requirements</li> <li>▪ BA degree or foreign equivalent in the upper second class or higher. Applications from students with lower qualifications will be considered, particularly when the student has high marks in relevant modules and/or appropriate professional experience.</li> </ul>					
<b>Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study</b>					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MA in International Relations	1 year (ft) 2 years (pt)	N/a This does not differ from the usual academic year	X		
<b>Language of study</b>		English			
<b>Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies</b> (if applicable)					
N/a					
<b>Educational aims of the programme(s)</b>					
<p>For the Masters:</p> <p>The academic content of the programme concentrates on the critical comprehension, understanding, and analysis of developments in international relations, in terms of its theories, issues and debates. Students will be equipped with critical analytical insights into contemporary global politics, including a range of issues such as international development, conflict, global governance, the nature and role of regional and international organisations, and normative issues. Students will gain an advanced critical understanding of key issues and approaches to</p>					

understanding international relations, of the core theoretical debates and their relationship to explaining and analysing current and historical problems in international relations, and of appropriate methodologies in international relations and of how to apply them to conduct an extended research project in the form of a dissertation.

For the Diploma and Certificate:

The academic content of the programme concentrates on the critical comprehension, understanding, and analysis of developments in international relations, in terms of its theories, issues and debates. Students will be equipped with critical analytical insights into contemporary global politics, including a range of issues such as international development, conflict, global governance, the nature and role of regional and international organisations, and normative issues. Students will gain an advanced critical understanding of key issues and approaches to understanding international relations, of the core theoretical debates and their relationship to explaining and analysing current and historical problems in international relations, and of appropriate methodologies in international relations.

**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 all awards:*

1. Knowledge of contemporary theories and approaches in the study of international relations and of the social and political processes that shape them.
2. Advanced critical understanding of a number of crucial issues and problems in current international relations, including international development, conflict, global governance, the nature and role of regional and international organisations, and normative issues.
3. Critical awareness of the plurality of theories and approaches relevant to addressing intellectual and practical problems in international relations.

*For the Masters:*

4. Deeper and more sustained critical understanding of theories, problems and approaches to international relations developed in the context of supervised independent research and the writing of a longer piece of work based on that research

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

- Seminars (1-2)
- Student presentations (1-2)
- Guided reading and private study (1-2)
- Feedback on formatively and summatively assessed written work and seminar performance (1-2)

Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)

- Essays for core and option modules (1-3)
- Dissertation (4)

**B: (i) Skills – discipline related**

Able to:

*For all awards:*

1. Write concise academic papers in international relations; to use library resources on international relations, including complete referencing.
2. Relate disciplinary theories and approaches to the identification and solution of intellectual and practical problems in international relations, both through individual work and collective seminar participation.
3. Prepare and present theoretical and applied analyses in international relations in the context of independent formulation of essay problem

*For the Masters:*

4. Critically analyse and evaluate evidence in the assessment and independent scrutiny of competing approaches and issues in international relations in the context of developing own research project.

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

- Seminars (1-4)
- Student presentations (1-4)
- Guided reading and private study (1-4)
- Feedback on formatively and summatively assessed written work and seminar performance (1-4)
- Individual academic support and guidance (1-4)
- Research training and individual supervision (4)

Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)

- Essays for core and option modules (1-3)
- Dissertation (4)

**B: (ii) Skills - transferable**

Able to:

*For all awards:*

1. Think and write clearly and critically.
2. Take part in oral communication, listening and argument
3. Demonstrate ability to work independently, set goals, and complete tasks within deadlines.
4. Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding in order to

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

- Seminars (1-5)
- Student presentations (1-5)
- Guided reading and private study (1-5)
- Feedback on formatively and summatively assessed written work and seminar performance (1-6)
- Research training (5,7)
- Individual supervision (5-7)

<p>continue academic and professional development and to engage in decision-making in complex environments.</p> <p>5. Abstract from and provide theoretical perspective on concrete political and policy problems both through individual work and collective seminar participation.</p> <p><i>For the Masters:</i></p> <p>6. Apply independent analytical problem formulation in relation Dissertation</p> <p>7. Conduct independent research, including more advanced methodological skills, capacity to work independently over a sustained period.</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Essays for core and option modules (1-5)</li> <li>▪ Dissertation (7)</li> </ul>
<b>C: Experience and other attributes</b>	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work independently</li> <li>2. Work in groups</li> <li>3. Present independently derived essay/research problems to class in written form and in class.</li> </ol> <p><i>For the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Present more in-depth methodology and empirical and/or theoretical contribution of dissertation in written form; self-motivated independent work over a sustained period; identifying and solving research problems, under supervision</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminars (1-2)</li> <li>▪ Student presentations (1-2)</li> <li>▪ Guided reading and private study (1-2)</li> <li>▪ Feedback on formatively and summatively assessed written work and seminar performance (1-2)</li> </ul> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Essay (1)</li> <li>▪ Dissertation (4)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points</b> (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)</p>	
<p>QAA: <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statements.aspx">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statements.aspx</a></p>	

## University award regulations

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.

## Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the student handbooks and through the VLE.  
Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the student handbooks.

## 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
Themes and Theories in International Relations (C, 20)	New Security Challenges (C, 20)	10-12,000 word dissertation supported by research workshop (C, 60)	10-12,000 word dissertation (C, 60) continued
Two option modules from list (see module table below) (C,20 each)	Two option modules from list (see module table below) (C,20 each)		

### Diploma and Certificate

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Themes and Theories in International Relations (C, 20)	New Security Challenges (C, 20)		
Two option modules from list (see module table below) (C,20 each)	Two option modules from list (see module table below) (C,20 each)		

Candidates who exit with a Diploma must pass all **120 credits** of taught modules.

Candidates who exit with a Certificate must pass **60 credits** of taught modules.

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

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term,	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
	Autumn term essay submissions (week 1)	Spring term essay submissions (week 1)	Dissertation submission (first Monday in September)	Examination Board November

		Progression Board (week 6); Re- assessment submissions (week 9)		Resubmitted marginal fail dissertations November
--	--	--	--	--





## Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level <sup>1</sup>	Credit value <sup>2</sup>	Prerequisites	Assessment rules <sup>3</sup>	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment <sup>4</sup>	Independent Study Module? <sup>5</sup>
Themes and Theories in International Relations	POL00031M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
New Security Challenges	POL00046M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Dissertation (MA)	POL00041M	7	60		NC	SuVac	yes

## Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
Africa and International Politics	POL00084M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Challenges to Policy-making in Democratising Countries	POL00085M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Comparative Institutions and Public Policy	POL00077M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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)

<sup>3</sup> **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

<sup>4</sup> AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

<sup>5</sup> **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.

Conflict and Development	POL00018M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Contemporary Issues in International Political Economy	POL00008M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Critical Theories of International Political Economy	POL00006M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Ethics and World Politics	POL00032M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Global Governance	POL00059M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Governing for the Environment	POL00067M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
The Making of the Contemporary World: History, Politics and Ideas since 1945	HIS00053M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, timing tbc by Department of History	no
Politics of International Trade and Development	POL00057M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Politics of Migration	POL00087M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Politics of the Poor	POL00088M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Russian Foreign Policy from Alexander I to Vladimir Putin	HIS00074M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, timing tbc by Department of History	no
Theories and Policies of Development Governance	POL00021M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Twentieth Century China	HIS00063M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, timing tbc by Department of History	no
Women, Citizenship and Conflict	WOM00010M	7	20	n/a		Presentation (50%), SpT Essay (50%), SuT, week 1	no

<b>Transfers out of or into the programme</b>	
<b>Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee</b>	
<b>Exception</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
n/a	
<b>Quality and Standards</b>	
<p>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.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation</li> <li>• The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector</li> <li>• Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes</li> <li>• The acquisition of feedback from students by departments.</li> </ul> <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office:  <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/">http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/</a></p>	
<b>Date on which this programme information was updated:</b>	14 June 2017
<b>Departmental web page:</b>	<a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/ma-international-relations/">https://www.york.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/ma-international-relations/</a>
<b>Please note</b>	
<p>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.</p> <p>Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.</p> <p>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.</p>	