



## Course Information Form

This Course Information Form provides the definitive record of the designated course

### Section A: General Course Information

<b>Course Title</b>	MSc International Relations Management
<b>Final Award</b>	MSc
<b>Route Code</b>	MSIRMAAF
<b>Intermediate Qualification(s)</b>	Postgraduate Diploma International Relations Management
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	7
<b>Location of Delivery</b>	University Square Campus, Luton
<b>Mode(s) and length of study</b>	Full Time over 1 Year (MSc)
<b>Standard intake points (months)</b>	October, November, February, April, June and August
<b>External Reference Points as applicable including Subject Benchmark</b>	<p>QAA subject benchmarks statements: business and management (2019) available at: <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-business-and-management.pdf?sfvrsn=db39c881_5">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-business-and-management.pdf?sfvrsn=db39c881_5</a></p> <p>QAA Framework for higher education qualifications (2014) (level 7)  <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf</a></p> <p>QAA (2020), 'Master's Degree characteristics'  <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf</a></p>

<b>Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation or endorsement</b>	N/A
<b>HECoS code(s)</b>	100490
<b>UCAS Course Code</b>	N/A

<b>Course Aims</b>	<p>This course aims to place key concepts of International Relations theory and questions of theoretical argument at the centre of analysis. This will enable you to acquire knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of theory and analysis such as the significance and application of political ideologies in the cold war and post-cold war era. It will develop your capacity to think critically and independently in evaluating different interpretations of globalisation and its impact on global trends. The course will increase your understanding of the complex interplay of factors (especially cultural and linguistic factors) that affect international relations, as well as raise related issues of ethical and political positions on questions of intervention peacekeeping, security processes and state-building. It also allows you to specialise in different aspects of international relations according to your individual interests and career aspirations, and to critically evaluate current research and engage in independent research in an area of your choice relevant to the management of international relations.</p>		
<b>Course Learning</b>	<p>Upon successful completion of your course you should meet the appropriate learning outcomes for your award shown in the table below</p>		
		<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Award</b>
	1	Demonstrate a deep critical understanding of International Relations theories to evaluate the modernist legacy of critical approaches to questions of ontology, epistemology and paradigms in the study of politics, and reactions to their global significance.	MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations Management
	2	Take an integrative approach and demonstrate critical awareness while employing theories from relevant fields such as peacekeeping and security and relate theory to policies in practice to evaluate the nature of systematic changes in the international system since the onset of the current phase of globalisation, facilitating the spread of democratisation, especially in the developing world	MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations Management
	3	Demonstrate a depth of knowledge and systematic understanding of cultural diversity and evaluate strategies for managing interdependencies of intercultural competence in different business environments.	MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations Management

<b>Outcomes</b>	4	Analyse and critically evaluate strategies for managing brand reputation that acknowledge and involve all internal and external stakeholders and demonstrate a thorough understanding and broad knowledge of the function of marketing communications tools in integrated brand communication by judging the effectiveness and outcome of their applications in both analogue and digital media.	MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations Management
	5	Demonstrate effective, rigorous and reflective skills of self-management and independence in terms of planning, behaviour, motivation, individual initiative and enterprise in order to meet the demands of the field of study in International Relations Management, while taking responsibility for personal learning and continuous professional development against clearly identified personal career-related goals.	MSc
	6	Deal with a range of complex and pervasive issues in a systematic and creative manner appropriate to a Masters degree in International Relations Management, in doing so form sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate conclusions and recommendations appropriate to both a specialist and non-specialist audience.	MSc
<p>This Course will provide you with a unique learning experience. It will be intense but also very rewarding. Your course will be delivered in a blocks format; this means you will undertake one unit at a time for 6 weeks and that will be a block of delivery. At the end of four blocks you will progress to the Master's capstone stage where you will need to complete a final capstone unit where you can choose one of the three options - Business Dissertation, Business Live Project, and Professional Practice. Regardless of which master's capstone experience you opt for, you will have to produce an individual, independent piece of work (dissertation/business report). You will have to identify the research question or problem under investigation, review relevant literature, develop a sound methodology in order to explore the problem, proceed with the analysis, discuss your findings and make recommendations. It is the capstone of this course and builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in all taught Units. All capstone options are evaluated as equivalent based on the unit learning outcomes.</p> <p>In order to undertake any of the capstone elements of this course you must have successfully completed 90 taught credits. Each Unit will include significant direct contact time but it will also require and provide time for individual reading and preparation for assessment. That will take place in weeks 3 and 6 of each block. By the end of this course you will appreciate the importance of developing a deep understanding of international relations, intercultural competences, international business, communication and peacekeeping.</p> <p>You will explore the management of international relations in an interdisciplinary manner reflecting the true nature of international institutions and organisations today. You will appreciate the importance of intercultural aspects of business and management. During the course you will have the opportunity to work with professionals in the field of international relations and peacekeeping.</p>			

## Teaching, learning and assessment strategies

Your studies will culminate in a 60 credit capstone unit which captures the ethos of the course with its specific focus on the application of knowledge to inform the investigation of issues related to the management of international relations and international organizations and resolution of inherent problems.

You are an active participant in the learning process, not a member of a passive audience. This improves your learning experience and increases your knowledge. At the same time, and throughout the course, you will be working on building up a number of transferable skills. These skills are: the ability to conduct high quality academic research; to identify questions that need to be addressed both professionally and scientifically; to think critically when analysing; deduct when synthesizing; and to present your argument in a clear and concise manner as is required for your success in this course and also expected by your future employers.

Your contribution to your own learning is pivotal. It is essential that, in order to maximise your benefit and to derive the best student experience, you must make optimum use of the time provided for individual learning. Direct contact times will be highly interactive and student preparation in advance is a key element for success. Starting in the Welcome week you will prepare for what will be an intensive delivery which will then be followed by your own individual learning and assessment.

The welcome week itself constitutes the first week of the professional achievement planning (hereinafter PAP) non-credit bearing unit that is an integral part of your course and is run in-between each of the four blocks of teaching and the Capstone. The PAP unit is designed to support your professional development and to provide you the skills to succeed in the workplace after graduation.

Your tutors are active researchers and they will guide you through this process by exposing you to the latest developments of the relevant subjects. Research informed teaching is the basis for transforming a course to a unique student experience in a very dynamic way. Although the main concepts and theories might be following the structure of a textbook, you are expected to do a substantial amount of reading yourselves. There will be both guided and independent reading and the information will be available to you through BREO and your Unit Handbooks. The University's Virtual Learning Environment will be essential in your efforts, given the delivery method.

This course will use various learning approaches, most importantly, the blended learning approach combining face-to-face interactions with online collaborative activities. The balance between classroom activities and digitally enabled activities provides flexibility and would enable you to develop self-directed learning skills and digital literacies. Outside the classroom, you are expected to actively engage in guided and independent learning according to the summary of learning hours indicated for each unit on the course.

### Assessment

A number of different assessment methods will contribute to your development and will enhance your employability. We consider it essential that comprehensive feedback is provided in due time so it is integrated in your learning process. When group work is required, the marks given will be individual following the University of Bedfordshire's regulatory scheme. In some cases, different kinds of assessment may be used in combination, making sure however that there are no hidden tasks.

The intensive character of this Course's delivery as it is outlined in its Teaching and Learning philosophy is consistent with the needs of today's world for graduates who accumulate knowledge fast and are able to express the outcome of this process in a way that is meaningful and comprehensive. . Welcome and induction activities will be followed immediately by a week of intensive direct contact time. Your own contribution through individual learning, will take you to your first assessment point. At the end of your six-week block, your final assessment will be due. This will be a demanding but very rewarding experience.

The different types of assessment on this course are included to help you demonstrate the knowledge and skills required at postgraduate level and valued by employers:

**Individual Written Report or Essays:** Your knowledge and skills are developed when you undertake the task of writing an individual report and the whole process contributes to your improvement when it comes to conducting postgraduate level research and developing your enterprise. The ability to perform literature informed research, to review and evaluate the relevant sources and to use an appropriate methodology in order to analyze and evaluate the relevant concepts is being assessed.

**Case Study Examination:** You will apply your knowledge in the context of a specific case

**Oral Presentation:** A number of transferable skills will be developed including the ability to present your findings in a professional, clear and concise manner.

**Reflective Report:** Evaluating your own contribution to a team is essential in the context of this course but in the workplace as well

**Dissertation / Professional Practice / Live Project:** Regardless of which master's capstone experience you opt for, you will have to produce an individual, independent piece of work. You will be asked to identify the research question or problem under investigation, review the relevant literature, develop a sound methodology in order to explore the problem, proceed with the analysis, discuss your findings and make recommendations. It is the capstone of this course and builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in all Units. It will be one of the most challenging but yet enjoyable and rewarding experiences you will encounter.

The use of a wide range of sources, both academic and other is a requirement for a postgraduate degree. The notions of accountability and academic integrity will be an integral part of your course. While studying, you can draw on the support of the Personal Academic Development team (PAD), Communication Skills classes and the online resource AIR (academic integrity resource). Through this support, you will be informed about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it during the delivery of each Unit. Where an individual project is required you will be asked to show the different stages of your work or to present it in its entirety upon completion. Where collaborative tasks are assigned, an individual reflective report will be necessary to indicate your contribution to the team. All coursework assignments will require a thorough evaluation of the sources used and referencing will be done according to the Harvard Referencing System.

### **Risk Assessment statement**

To protect the integrity of our awards, for any submission we may use one or more of the following to ensure that a student is submitting their own work:

- Submission of your work to Turnitin or other software for similarity checks
  - Recorded or non-recorded review of draft work with a tutor in formative sessions
  - Viva voce examination; you may be asked to discuss aspects of your submission and/or to provide evidence of draft work.
- A viva will follow the procedures set out in the Quality Handbook.

### **Formative feedback statement**

We recognise that formative feedback is essential to supporting you to submit your best attempt. Formative feedback can take many different forms but may include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-class exercises exploring aspects of the assignment, with feedback given collectively or individually during the class</li> <li>• Assessment brief dialogue</li> <li>• Zero-rated assignments that should be completed but carry no formal mark</li> <li>• The opportunity to informally submit part of the work for brief comments from your tutor</li> <li>• A document in the unit Assessment &amp; Feedback folder that reflects on common errors on similar assignments</li> <li>• Assignment Q&amp;A sessions</li> <li>• Summative and formative feedback from preceding units</li> </ul>
<b>Learning support</b>	<p>The University's comprehensive student support service includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Information Desk, a one-stop shop for any initial enquiries</li> <li>• Student Support team advising and supporting those with physical or learning needs or more general student well being</li> <li>• Study Hub team providing academic skills guidance</li> <li>• Personal Academic Tutoring system</li> <li>• a student managed Peer-Assisted Learning scheme</li> <li>• and support from your lecturers</li> </ul>
<b>Admissions Criteria</b>	<p><a href="https://www.beds.ac.uk/entryrequirements">https://www.beds.ac.uk/entryrequirements</a></p> <p><b>Approved Variations and Additions to Standard Admission</b></p> <p>NONE</p>
<b>Assessment Regulations</b>	<p><a href="https://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/academic-information">https://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/academic-information</a></p> <p><b>Note: Be aware that our regulations change every year</b></p> <p><b>Approved Variations and Additions to Standard Assessment Regulations'</b></p> <p>NONE</p>

## Section B: Course Structure

The Units which make up the course are listed below. Each unit contributes to the achievement of the course learning outcomes either through teaching (T), general development of skills and knowledge (D) or in your assessments (A).

Unit	Unit Name	Level	Credits	Core or Option	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
BSS072-6	Performance Achievement Planning	7	0	Core	D1 2	D12	D12	D12	TD A2										
MAR036-6	Brand Communication and Reputation	7	30	Core				TD A12											
MAR038-6	Intercultural Business Competencies	7	30	Core			TD A12												
MAR042-6	Business Dissertation	7	60	Core					TD A1	TD A2									
MAR044-6	International Relations	7	30	Core	TD A1 2														
MAR045-6	Peacekeeping and Security	7	30	Core		TD A12													

Unit	Unit Name	Level	Credits	Core or Option	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
BSS072-6	Performance Achievement Planning	7	30	Core	D1 2	D12	D12	D12											
MAR036-6	Brand Communication and Reputation Management	7	30	Core				TD A12											
MAR038-6	Intercultural Business Competencies	7	30	Core			TD A12												
MAR044-6	International Relations	7	30	Core	TD A1 2														
MAR045-6	Peacekeeping and Security	7	30	Core		TD A12													





## Section C: Assessment Plan

The course is assessed as follows :

### MSIRMAAF- MSc International Relations Management

Unit Code	Level	Period	Core/Option	Ass 1 Type code	Ass 1 Submit wk	Ass 2 Type code	Ass 2 Submit wk	Ass 3 Type code	Ass 3 Submit wk	Ass 4 Type code	Ass 4 Submit wk
MAR036-6	7	1 BLOC K	Core	CW-RW	3	WR-I	6				
MAR038-6	7	1 BLOC K	Core	CW-PO	3	WR-I	6				
MAR044-6	7	1 BLOC K	Core	CW-PO	3	CW-CS	6				
MAR045-6	7	1 BLOC K	Core	CW-LR	3	PR-ORAL	6				
MAR042-6	7	2 BLOC KS	Core	WR-I	3	PJ-DIS	12				

### MSIRMAAF- Postgraduate Diploma International Relations Management

Unit Code	Level	Period	Core/Option	Ass 1 Type code	Ass 1 Submit wk	Ass 2 Type code	Ass 2 Submit wk	Ass 3 Type code	Ass 3 Submit wk	Ass 4 Type code	Ass 4 Submit wk
MAR036-6	7	1 BLOC K	Core	CW-RW	3	WR-I	6				
MAR038-6	7	1 BLOC K	Core	CW-PO	3	WR-I	6				

MAR044-6	7	1 BLOC K	Core	CW-PO	3	CW-CS	6				
MAR045-6	7	1 BLOC K	Core	CW-LR	3	PR-ORAL	6				

### Glossary of Terms for Assessment Type Codes

CW-CS	Coursework - Case Study
CW-LR	Coursework - Literature Review
CW-PO	Coursework - Portfolio
CW-RW	Coursework - Reflective Writing
PJ-DIS	Coursework - Dissertation Report
WR-I	Coursework - Individual Report

### Administrative Information

Faculty	University of Bedfordshire Business School
School	Department of International Business, Marketing and Tourism
Head of School/Department	Steve McPeake
Course Coordinator	Leszek Wypych