

MA International Relations

Programme Specification



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| 1. Programme title | MA International Relations / PG Diploma International Relations / PG Certificate International Relations |
| 2. Awarding institution | Middlesex University |
| 3. Teaching institution | Middlesex University |
| 4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body | N/A |
| 5. Final qualification | MA International Relations / PG Diploma International Relations / PG Certificate International Relations |
| 6. Year of validation Year of amendment | 2015 |
| 7. Language of study | English |
| 8. Mode of study | Full time / Part time |

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

A degree at 2.2 level and above in a cognate discipline. IELTS standard must be at 6.5.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- To provide a systematic understanding and critical awareness of the concepts, practices and theories of International Relations.
- To provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate advanced critical appreciation and original thinking in conducting in-depth research or project work on topics of their own interest.
- To give students access to a broad intellectual environment through the provision of innovative teaching, assessment and events.
- To aid career development by refining skills that enhance employability and providing opportunities for internships in the international political world.
- To enrich the student learning experience through the utilization of staff contacts, experience and research interests

| 11. Programme outcomes | |
|---|---|
| <p>A. Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The essential concepts of International Relations 2. International political processes and institutions 3. The foreign policies of different political systems 4. Theories of International Relations. | <p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students gain knowledge and understanding through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lectures and seminars that are a means of exploring key issues. - Case studies that are used to identify examples of effective practices. - Problem based scenarios that critically analyse an international situation and develop recommendations for effective resolution. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by –</p> <p>Essays and critical reviews</p> |
| <p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of international policy, international institutions and foreign policy processes. 2. Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in International Relations. 3. Evaluate and deploy IR methodologies and develop critiques of them. | <p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through – interactive lectures, workshops, seminars, directed reading and coursework.</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by a variety of methods such as book reviews, critical assessments of primary documents, essays and a 10-12,000 word dissertation or placement based project</p> |
| <p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced experience of working constructively in groups and engaging in coherent debate in a diverse international environment. 2. The independent learning ability required for continuing their intellectual and professional development. 3. Enhanced ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and communicate their conclusions to specialist and non-specialist audiences. 4. Demonstrable ability at solving advanced problems through personal initiative and original thinking. | <p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through lectures, seminars, workshops, individual/group tutorials, role playing exercises and the specialist discussion, question and answer sessions with invited guest lecturers</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by the dissertation proposal and thesis; the analysis and interpretation of primary documents; the writing of book reviews and essay writing.</p> |
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12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

OCTOBER START

| AUTUMN TERM | WINTER / SPRING TERM |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| POI4112 GLOBAL SECURITY | SSC4602 RESEARCH AND PRACTICE SKILLS |
| POI4113 FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS: GEOPOLITICAL PERSPECTIVES | POI4114 POLITICS OF GLOBALISATION |
| OPTION | OPTION |

JANUARY START

| WINTER / SPRING TERM | AUTUMN TERM |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| SSC4602 RESEARCH AND PRACTICE SKILLS | POI4112 GLOBAL SECURITY |
| POI4114 POLITICS OF GLOBALISATION | POI4113 FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS: GEOPOLITICAL PERSPECTIVES |
| OPTION | OPTION |

DISSERTATION (SSC4994) OR SSC4060 Work Integrated Learning – 60 credits)

October start –submit following October

January start – submit following January

The programme consists of two main stages: taught modules and the dissertation or placement based project and lasts for one year for full-time students and two years for part-time students. The programme is divided into three modules studied in each semester which occupy the student's whole time for a semester. The emphasis of the programme is on intensive and focused study; it is a technique of total immersion rather than gradual exploration. Students concentrate on one theme or topic at a time but they should bear in mind the overall coherence of the programme. Ideas and themes from previous modules are relevant and should be brought to bear in subsequent modules.. Students can start the programme in October or in January.

12.2 Levels and modules

Starting in academic year 2010/11 the University is changing the way it references modules to state the level of study in which these are delivered. This is to comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. This implementation will be a gradual process whilst records are updated. Therefore the old coding is bracketed below.

| | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Level 7 (1) | | |
| COMPULSORY | OPTIONAL | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>MA Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>POI 4113 Foreign Policy Analysis: Geopolitical Perspectives</p> <p>POI 4114 Politics of Globalisation</p> <p>POI 4112 Global Security</p> <p>SSC 4602 Research & Practice Skills</p> <p>Students must take one of these 60 credit modules:</p> <p>SSC 4994 Dissertation</p> <p>SSC 4060 Work Integrated Learning</p> | <p>Students can take two of the following modules:</p> <p>SSC4603 Sustainable Development and Human Rights</p> <p>SSC4604 Global Governance for Sustainable Development</p> <p>SSC4605 Environmental Policy and Ethics</p> <p>SSC4606 Environmental Law and Governance</p> <p>CRIM4570 Environmental Crime and Green Criminology</p> <p>SOC4022 Migration Politics and Policies</p> <p>SSC4031 Integrated Work and Learning (Students may also select any relevant 20 credit modules at Level 7 subject to their availability and with the prior agreement of the pertinent Programme Leaders. LEX4704 Foundations and Principles of International Law is a recommended option).</p> | <p>PG Certificate students must complete:</p> <p>POI 4113 Foreign Policy Analysis: Geopolitical Perspectives</p> <p>POI 4114 Politics of Globalisation</p> <p>POI 4112 Global Security</p> <p>PG Diploma students must successfully complete all of the above AND SSC4602 Research and Practice Skills* and 2 option modules MA students must complete all of the above AND SSC4994 Dissertation or SSC4060 placement (60 credits)</p> <p>* Successful completion of SSC4602 is a prerequisite for all of the 60 credit dissertation and placement modules.</p> |
|---|--|---|

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

| Module level | Module code |
|--------------|---|
| 7 | POI4112, POI4113, POI4114, SSC4602, SSC4994 or SSC4060 or |
| | |

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

Assessment regulations are as detailed in the University Regulations. The following should be noted:

- The pass mark is 16 in all modules
- No condonement of failed modules is permissible

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

Students may elect/apply to undertake Integrated Work and Learning (20 credits - SSC4031) or SSC4060 Work Integrated Learning (60 credits) in an area which is relevant to their career pathway or aspirations. The programme team are able to advise about projects and may be able to link students with potential internships for SSC4031 or SSC4060. However the process of researching, selecting and negotiating the internship is a crucial element of the learning process and assessment and as such should be student led. Students will be allocated a workplace mentor and a university supervisor.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Finance, Media, Foreign Service, Diplomatic Line, Non Governmental Agencies, United Nations

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

- Library and Learner Enhancement Team workshops
- Saturday school on study skills for new postgraduate students
- Dissertation page in mylearning on myunihub to support dissertation supervision
- Each student will have a designated dissertation supervisor

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

L250

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

- REF 2014
- Excellence level.'
- Positive external examiner reports
- Positive student feedback
- Politics and International Relations QAA (2015) *Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations*, Mansfield: The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

20. Reference points

- University and School Teaching and Learning Policy
- University and School Assessment Policy and Procedures
- Middlesex University Regulations
- University Student Charter
- School Postgraduate framework
- QAA subject benchmark statements for Politics and International Relations
- Student, Staff, External Examiner & Graduates' feedback and comments

21. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Curriculum map for *MA International Relations*

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

| Knowledge and understanding | | Practical skills | |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| A1 | The essential concepts of International Relations | C1 | Enhanced experience of working constructively in groups and engaging in coherent debate in a diverse international environment |
| A2 | International political processes and institutions | C2 | The independent learning ability required for continuing their intellectual and professional development |
| A3 | The foreign policies of different political systems | C3 | Enhanced ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and communicate their conclusions to specialist and non-specialist audiences |
| A4 | Theories of International Relations | C4 | Demonstrable ability at solving advanced problems through personal initiative and original thinking |
| Cognitive skills | | | |
| B1 | Critically evaluate the effectiveness of international policy, international institutions and foreign policy processes | | |
| B2 | Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in International Relations. | | |
| B3 | Evaluate and deploy IR methodologies and develop critiques of them | | |

| Programme outcomes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | A6 | A7 | B1 | B2 | B3 | B4 | B5 | B6 | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | C5 | C6 | D1 | D2 | D3 | D4 | D5 | D6 | D7 |
| Highest level achieved by all graduates | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | | | | 7 | 7 | 7 | | | | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |

| Module Title | Module Code by Level | | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | B1 | B2 | B3 | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 |
|--|-------------------------|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foreign Policy Analysis: Geopolitics, Statecraft & Diplomacy | POI 4113 | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X |
| Global Security | POI 4112 | | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | | |
| Politics of Globalisation | POI 4114 | | | X | | X | X | | | X | | X | X |
| Research & Practice Skills | SSC 4602 | | | | | | | | X | X | X | | |
| Dissertation | SSC4994 | | | | | X | X | X | X | | X | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Work Integrated Learning | SSC4060 | | | | | | X | | | X | X | X | X |