

Programme Title: MRes in International Relations



Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	Masters of Research (MRes) in International Relations
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	24 months (PT);
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	L2S6
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	22 Aug 2013
Responsible School / Institute	School of Politics and International Relations

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

The programme aims to provide students with research methods training and a stepping stone to doctoral research, the programme will also provide students with an intellectually stimulating and research-led teaching in key areas within the discipline of International Relations including IR theory, the impact of the changes associated with globalization on the study of international relations, international political economy and international security. Further, students will also be able to choose from an extensive list of course options offered by the Department of Politics.

Aims of the Programme

The aims of the are:

- o To provide students with a comprehensive training in the core research methods of Social Science.
- o To provide students with training in research techniques in Political Science/International Relations as a stepping-stone to a PhD or other research related career
- o To provide students with the conceptual and analytical tools to study and research issues within the academic discipline of

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International Relations.

- o To provide students with the opportunity to contribute to the formulation and development of ideas underpinning potential PhD projects in areas of interest, and to take informed decisions on the final choice of PhD
- o To equip students with a range of professional and transferable skills.

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

On successful completion of the programme, students should be able to:

Academic Content:

A 1	Demonstrate an ability to critically assess different research approaches and methodologies within Political Science/ International Relations and Social Science more generally.
A 2	Demonstrate a capacity to apply research methodologies to the study of International Relations.
A 3	Construct a research proposal to undertake research within the discipline of Political Science and/or International Relations.
A 4	Critically evaluate key issues and debates – both theoretical and empirical within the study of International Relations.
A 5	Demonstrate knowledge of generic professional skills appropriate to a career in Political Science/International Relations research.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Communicate ideas, both orally and in written form, to others and in a clear, coherent and detailed fashion.
B 2	Articulate, both orally and in writing, a theoretical account and critique of different approaches in political theory and in the study of global politics.
B 3	Demonstrate an ability to apply such approaches to the analysis of current and historic events and issues in global politics.
B 4	Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate methodologies in political theory and in the study of global politics and undertake a piece of extended, independent research
B 5	Critically reflect on their peers' and their own arguments, orally as well as in writing.

Attributes:

C 1	Able to apply theory and methods to concrete issues and cases.
C 2	Able to do independent research.

How Will You Learn?

The programme will be delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars and individual tutorials.

How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment will be by a mix of coursework and an in-class test plus a dissertation. Some option modules have an exam as part of the assessment.

How is the Programme Structured?

Students enrolling on this MRes programme will take the following modules:

- POLM017 Dissertation (60 credits) - Core
- POLM036 Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods (60 credits) - Compulsory
- POLM023 Theories of International Relations (30 credits) - Compulsory

Students will take a further 30 credits from the SPIR PG elective module list.

Academic Year of Study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods	POLM036	60	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1-3
Theories of International Relations	POLM023	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation	POLM017	60	7	Core	1	Semester 3
Democracy in Plural Societies	POLM014	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Implementation and Evaluation	POLM0003	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Nationalism, Democracy and Cosmopolitanism	POLM016	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Policy Analysis for the Developing World	POLM019	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context	POLM027	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Sub-saharan Africa, States and Societies	POLM046	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Decolonising International Relations	POLM047	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Politics of Health	POLM049	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Political Analysis	POLM058	0	7	Study only	1	Semesters 1 & 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Upper-second class honours degree in Politics, International Relations, Critical Theory or a related discipline.
Proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 7.5

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between Schools and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the module evaluations.

Academic Support

Students take part in a School wide induction programme. They will have a designated personal tutor as well as a designated dissertation supervisor, both of whom will meet with the students on a regular basis. The School has a Senior Tutor for MA students who will also be available to see students.

Students are also kept informed about support and help available either within the school, such as dedicated personal adviser weeks, or support workshops organised by Advice and Counselling at QM or the Language and Learning Unit, via the postgraduate administrator and school office.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

N/A

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Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Robbie Shilliam

Person responsible for management of programme

Robbie Shilliam

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

8 Aug 2013

**Date Programme Specification approved by
Taught Programmes Board**

22 Aug 2013