

Programme Title: International Relations (Distance Learning)



Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MA International Relations
Name of Interim Award(s)	PGDip, PGCert
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	2 years (part time)
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	L2T4
QAA Benchmark Group	Politics and International Relations
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	26 Feb 2014
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 MA in International Relations is concerned with analysing the key issues and concepts in world politics. The compulsory course provides students with a comprehensive and sophisticated appreciation of the importance of theory to understanding international politics, providing a detailed knowledge of individual theories. Module options are designed to allow you to develop your expertise and apply theories and concepts within particular issue areas, including international security, international political economy, and the impact of the changes associated with globalization on the study of international relations. The programme provides you with a set of analytical skills and knowledge that will allow you to think, talk and write critically about contemporary international issues, as well as a firm foundation for further study.

Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to deepen knowledge of the contemporary issues prevalent in international relations and to provide students with concepts and theories that will facilitate critical and cutting-edge analysis of these issues. Students will be able to critically assess the impact and extent of globalization on political actors and institutions, and to appreciate the diversity of these impacts across different issue areas and regions.

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What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

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

Academic Content:

A 1	Engage in some depth with the key issues prevalent in international relations
A 2	Critically analyse these issues with a range of analytical frameworks and concepts
A 3	Assess and articulate the different impacts of globalization on regions and issue-areas

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Think critically and analytically, and to read a wide range of texts in a critical manner, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of different arguments
B 2	Critically assess the utility of different analytical frameworks and concepts used in the field of study
B 3	Explicate some of the key challenges and controversies that face the contemporary study of international relations

Attributes:

C 1	Work autonomously and demonstrate initiative, self organisation, and time management, to plan and evaluate their learning and performance
C 2	Communicate knowledge, ideas and analysis clearly and concisely in both written and oral form
C 3	Gain practitioner relevant understandings of international relations through rigorous academic training

How Will You Learn?

The programme will be delivered entirely online and students are not expected to be present at QMUL. However, an annual two-day Summer School will be offered as an option to all students.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of international relations, as well as their critical and analytical skills, by completing the required weekly readings and engaging with the online seminars. Office hours (2 hours per week for each module) will take place via the chat facility on QMPLUS. Students will also receive a set amount of supervision for their own directed independent research via email, phone, and/or skype.

How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessments will be primarily in the form of research essays, although some modules might include report writing.

How is the Programme Structured?

Students must undertake the DL versions of two compulsory modules: Theories of International Relations (POLM076), and Themes and Cases in US Foreign Relations (POLM075); and a choice of two out of the following three electives: Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development (POLM073), International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context (POLM074), and Vocational Placement (POLM078). Students must also take the DL version of the core Dissertation module (POLM077).

Part time study will be organized as follows:

Semester 1, Year 1: Theories of International Relations (DL)

Semester 2, Year 1: Choose one from Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development (DL); International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context (DL)

Semester 1, Year 2: Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy (DL)

Semester 2, Year 2: Choose one from Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development (DL); International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context (DL); Vocational Placement

Semester 2/3 Year 2: Dissertation (DL)

Academic Year of Study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Theories of International Relations (DL)	POLM076	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Themes and Cases in US Foreign Relations (DL)	POLM075	30	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development (DL)	POLM073	30	7	Elective	1 or 2	Semester 2
International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context (DL)	POLM074	30	7	Elective	1 or 2	Semester 2
Dissertation (DL)	POLM077	60	7	Core	2	Semester 2 & 3

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Vocational Placement	POLM078	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Upper second class honours or equivalent in a cognate degree. Appropriate professional experience in a cognate field could substitute for degree requirement. IELTS 7.0 for students requiring language qualification.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes 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/institute 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 the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

A special student representative for DL taught masters programme will be appointed. She/he will send comments/queries to the SSLC via email. Discussions will be minuted in the usual fashion and the DL representative will receive all documentation via email. If issues raised at SSLC need to be taken forward to LTC then the DL representative will be kept informed of these developments. It might occasionally be necessary for the DL representative and head of SSLC or LTC to discuss matters by phone/skype.

Academic Support

Students will be designated a personal tutor as well as a designated dissertation supervisor, both of whom will be available to communicate with students at a designated time on a weekly basis.

Students are also kept informed about support and help available within the School via the postgraduate administrator and the School Office.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

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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.

We will liaise with the DDS to ensure that these facilities, where appropriate and possible, are extended to our DL students.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

The programme includes the option of completing a placement module (30 credits) that will be appropriate for students who are already working in a recognized institution, or can arrange a placement themselves. This module will require students to complete a number of assignments for their assessment based on their placement. In accordance with best practice in the field, students who conduct a placement within their existing job will be required to complete an assignment which is above and beyond their normal day-to-day work activities. This module will be designed in accordance with the guidelines for placement learning established by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Dr Robbie Shilliam

Person responsible for management of programme

Professor Adam Fagan

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

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board

26 Feb 2014