

MRes Politics and International Studies (THPL-AFM52)

Course and Award Details

Course title	MRes Politics and International Studies
Route(s)	MRes Politics and International Studies
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Masters Degree not mainly by Research
Award name	Masters - Postgraduate Taught
Course mode of delivery	Full time
Course length	1 years
Entry point	September 2024
Main location of study	University of Bath, Main Campus, Claverton Down
Course-owning school/department	Politics, Languages and International Studies

Course Description

Course Summary Enhance your research skills and learn about key techniques to draw in-depth insights in a politics and international studies context.

Course Description With a primary focus on in-depth methods and approaches to quantitative and qualitative research, you'll gain the essential skills to progress your studies or become a working researcher in the fields of politics and international studies.

You'll learn about key techniques used in the analysis of large-scale data and how to present key insights and findings in an actionable way.

Alongside this, you'll learn about key issues in the fields of politics and international studies, such as:

- human rights
- international justice
- global political economy
- international relations in the South and Central Asia region

Alongside developing your research skills, you will explore wide themes in politics and international studies through a variety of optional units.

This course is designed to provide high-quality training to potential doctoral students, as well as essential research skills that are desirable in a number of private and public sector roles.

>South West Doctoral Training Partnership

>This MRes is recognised by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) (<https://esrc.ukri.org>), specifically, as part of the larger South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP)(<https://www.swdtp.ac.uk>). It can be taken as a course in its own right, or if you hold an SWDTP studentship(<https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/esrc-funded-studentships/>) you can take the 1+3 (MRes + PhD) pathway.

>If you wish to be considered for a 1+3 SWDTP studentship, then you must apply for your preferred PhD route and not the stand-alone MRes. You should follow our [how to apply\(/guides/how-to-apply-for-doctoral-study\)](#) guidelines.

>For those holding a 1+3 SWDTP studentship, progression from the MRes to the MPhil or PhD stage is dependent on an acceptable level of achievement.

>Read more about other funding that you may be eligible for([/campaigns/find-funding-for-doctoral-research/](#)).

Learn from experts in their field

You'll learn from experts in politics and international studies. Their passion, knowledge and research shape their teaching to enhance your learning experience.

Gain important career skills

We work to provide you with the tools and support to prepare you for employment and further study.

This includes advanced quantitative and qualitative research skills, and bibliographic skills; and the use of appropriate technology to undertake tasks that use these skills.

Graduate prospects

There is increasing demand for high-level quantitative and qualitative research skills from a wide range of private and public sector recruiters.

Many firms and government departments are now committed to data-driven decision-making, making use of the increased availability of big data.

This course will equip you with a hybrid skill set that combines quantitative, computing and analytical skills with an understanding of political and international development research and enquiry.

This MRes also equips you to go into further study at PhD level.

Contact hours

You are expected to spend approximately 35 hours per week studying, with around 8-10 of those hours being structured classes.

This will be made up of a combination of lectures and seminars.

Delivery methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the learning and teaching methods used on the course:

Lectures
Seminars

Assessment summary

You will experience a range of different forms of assessment designed to support your professional development. This will include coursework, project work, examinations, and a dissertation.

We can make reasonable adjustments to assessment procedures for students with disabilities. Take a look at our Disability Service's pages([/professional-services/disability-service/](#)) for information.

Assessment methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the assessment methods used on the course:

Coursework
Dissertation
Examinations
Project output (other than dissertation or report)

Budgeting statement

You will need to budget at least £100 for the cost of photocopying, printing and binding. You will also need to budget for the cost of textbooks. Some courses involve visits away from campus and you may be required to pay some or all of the costs of travel, accommodation and food and drink. If you're on a placement, you're responsible for your own travel, accommodation and living costs. You should also

consider the financial implications if you go on an unpaid or overseas placement.

Course Assessment Regulations

Applicable Assessment Regulations	Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations - https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/
Exemptions from Regulations	Not specified
Course Progression Requirements	Not specified

Course Structure

Year 1

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PL00000	Academic integrity training & test	Extra	Foundation (FHEQ level 3)	0	
AY	HS52009	Dissertation	Part 4 Project/Diss Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	40	
AY	HS52015	Principles of social sciences research	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	HS52008	Digital methods and data skills for MRes	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S1	HS52016	Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	PL52157	Research methods in political science and international relations for MRes	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S2	MRes Politics and IS FT CT S2					Select 20 credits from this group in this period
	HS52002	Advanced qualitative methods	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
	HS52003	Advanced quantitative methods	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG	5	

			(FHEQ level 7)	
HS52010	Independent research essay	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5
PL52168	The politics of Asia and the world	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10
PL52174	Theories of conflict and conflict resolution	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10
SP52098	Global political economy	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10

Additional rules for module selection

None

Year 2

No units found

The availability of optional units is subject to constraints such as staff availability, minimum and maximum group sizes, and timetabling factors, as well as a student's ability to meet any pre-requisite rules.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to

	Knowledge and Understanding	Intellectual Skills	Professional and Transferable Skills	Study Year Placement	Study Year Abroad
Critically apply the basic principles of research design and appreciate alternative approaches to research	✓				
Critically review alternative epistemological positions that provide the context for theory construction, research design and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques	✓				

Appraise the major paradigms within which political science is conducted, and the relationship between them	✓	✓	
Apply suitable approaches to research in the field of Politics and International Relations, as well as an ability to contribute to research projects in this area	✓	✓	
Appraise quantitative methods of data collection and analysis as used in political science	✓	✓	
Critically review the use of qualitative methods in political science, such as structured interviews and focus groups	✓	✓	
Apply problem-solving skills in seeking solutions to political problems in a supra-national and international as well as national and sub-national context	✓	✓	
Assess the outcomes of interventions by governments and other organisations to solve political problems		✓	
Undertake investigations of political questions, issues and problems in a comparative and global setting		✓	✓
Distinguish between the normative and pragmatic factors that affect policies and their outcomes		✓	✓
Where appropriate, develop the required knowledge of a relevant language for a chosen geographical area(s) of study			✓
Appreciate the format and mechanisms for the dissemination of political science research through			✓

science research through professional bodies, including conference papers, posters and journal articles, and the process of peer review

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards

Exit awards:

Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma

For further information see <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/>

For information on possible named exit awards, please contact your Director of Studies

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