



## Programme Specification

(please see the notes at the end of this document for a summary of uses of programme specifications)

<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
<i>Awarding Institution//Body</i>	University of Bath
<i>Teaching Institution</i>	University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), University of Bath, plus one or more of the Euromasters' degree partner universities: Berlin: Freie and Humboldt Universities Madrid: Complutense University of Prague: Charles University Siena: University of
<i>Validated/Franchised/Licensed (if appropriate)</i>	N/A
<i>Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)</i>	
<i>Programme approved by (including date &amp; minute number of Senate)</i>	30.4.98
<i>Final award</i>	MA in Contemporary TransAtlantic Studies
<i>Programme title</i>	MA in Contemporary TransAtlantic Studies
<i>UCAS code (if applicable)</i>	N/A
<i>Subject Benchmark Statement</i>	N/A
<i>Intended level of completed programme (in line with FHEQ eg 5, 6, 7,)</i>	M
<i>Duration of programme &amp; mode of study</i>	24 months, full time
<i>Date of Specification preparation/revision</i>	December 2011, Feb 2013, Revised 13 Nov 2013, September 2017
<i>Applicable to cohorts (eg. for students commencing in September 2013 or 2013/14-2014/15)</i>	2017/2018

### **Synopsis and academic coherence of programme**

The overall goal of the programme is to train students in the politics, policy and culture of Europe and the United States. The aim is to prepare students for careers in international organisations, transatlantic businesses, US and EU government service, and other transatlantic careers.

This degree is based on intensive full-time teaching of 3 modules, plus a dissertation module. All students attend a Core Module in Chapel Hill from August-Jan. This is designed to broadly lay the basis for their further studies. Students then choose to move between sites for the next three Modules. The Jan.-May 'Specialist Module 1' includes coverage of the relations between the host-site's country and 'Europe', together with other units which reflect sites' academic interests. The Sept.-Jan. 'Specialist Module 2' (which in effect will take place in year 2, semester 1) covers a broad single theme, specifically chosen to focus on one of the key issues facing Europe at present (in Bath it is *European Perspectives on Security*). The first three Modules of the programme are taught by extensive use of formal lectures, and

student-led seminars.

Students on this programme can choose to submit the research dissertation to the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), or to the University of Bath or other European degree-awarding institution within the European American University Consortium. Only students who submit their dissertation to the University of Bath are able to receive a Bath award.

### Educational aims of the programme

- To familiarise students with approaches/study at the Masters' level in political science - though also encompassing sociology, political economy, law, and other relevant fields of study;
- To develop a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the study of contemporary Euro-Atlantic Relations;
- To develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the students' own research and to advanced scholarship in the field of contemporary politics and international Relations;
- To enable students to be original in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline of comparative politics and international relations;
- To relate European developments to wider, especially transatlantic, developments and to enhance critical abilities to discuss and write about these issues; and
- Where appropriate to site choice, to further the foreign language skills of students.
- To develop intercultural communication skills.

### Intended learning outcomes (including teaching, learning and assessment methods, specifying those applicable for interim awards where appropriate)

<p>➤ Knowledge &amp; Understanding:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep understanding of the origins, development, current activity and organisation of the institutions of the European Union and international relations</li> <li>• Broad-based empirical knowledge of contemporary European and Global politics, policy and society</li> <li>• Critical understanding of contemporary European political problems and how they emerge at sub-national, national and supra-national levels and between them</li> <li>• Key conceptual and theoretical approaches in order to be able to critically analyse such developments</li> <li>• Critical comparative understanding of political issues, both in historical and cross-national terms</li> </ul>
<p>➤ Intellectual Skills:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to select and use appropriate ideas to produce a coherent response to a pre-set question.</li> <li>• Ability to select, summarise and synthesise written information from multiple sources.</li> <li>• Ability to develop rigorous arguments through precise use of concepts and models.</li> <li>• Ability to formulate a manageable research question(s).</li> <li>• Ability to work as a team.</li> <li>• Ability to engage in effective oral academic</li> </ul>

	<p>communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to work independently, with limited supervision.</li> <li>• Ability to work to specifications and meet deadlines.</li> </ul> <p>By means of the research dissertation, the <b>MA</b> will furthermore enable students to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;</li> <li>• Be familiar with quantitative and qualitative methods in political science</li> <li>• Be able to apply problem-solving skills in seeking solutions to political problems in a supra-national as well as national and sub-national contexts;</li> <li>• Be able to undertake investigations of political questions, issues and problems in a comparative and European setting;</li> <li>• Be able to distinguish between the normative and pragmatic differences that affect policies and their consequences.</li> <li>• Be able to assess the outcomes of interventions by governments and other organisations to solve political problems</li> </ul>
<p>➤ Professional Practical Skills:</p>	<p>Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acquire bibliographic and IT skills, enabling them to identify and use library and other bibliographic resources and maintain a personal research bibliography;</li> <li>2. Understand issues posed by political science research in relation to ethics, confidentiality and legality (including IPR), and acquire the skills needed in order to respect, consider and attend to the rights of other researchers and research participants;</li> <li>3. Where appropriate, have begun to develop a working knowledge of a relevant language for a chosen geographical area(s) of study.</li> <li>4. Be familiar with the format and mechanisms for the dissemination of political science research through professional bodies.</li> </ol>
<p>➤ Transferable/Key Skills:</p>	<p>Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop writing, presentation and dissemination skills, including Internet-based tools;</li> <li>2. Develop skills in effective team working through collaboration in projects;</li> <li>3. Develop competency in the presentation of research findings to different audiences;</li> <li>4. Develop an understanding of the skills required to engage with the media.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Structure and content of the programme</b> (including potential stopping off points)</p>	

See the Programme Description in Annex 1. Details of unit contents can be found from the Unit Catalogue from <http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/other.html> - please note that these are updated in July of each year to list units for the following academic year.

**Semester 1 – Core Module and US National Module (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)**

*Students will take courses at UNC-CH during the Fall semester. These courses were specifically designed to introduce students to the EU and focus on comparative approaches to the institutions, politics, policies, and societies of nations.*

**Semester 2 – Specialist Module 1: Global Europe – Roles and Comparisons**

(30 credits; Sites = Bath, Berlin, , Madrid, Prague)

**Semester 3 – Specialist Module 2: European Perspectives on Security**

(30 credits; Sites = Bath, Berlin, Madrid, Siena)

**Semester 4 – Dissertation (15,000 words) (30 credits)**

To be submitted by 30 September of the second year of the programme.

(Sites = Bath, Berlin, Madrid, Siena).

PL50685 MA in Contemporary Transatlantic Studies dissertation

Overall credits = 120

NB there is no Certificate or Diploma possibility for this programme

**Details of work placements / work-based learning / industrial training / study abroad requirements**

The degree requires that at least one Module is taken away from the University of North Carolina leaving the University of Bath as one of their options.

**Details of support available to students (e.g. induction programmes, programme information, resources)**

- The *Euromasters* degree has a detailed *Student Handbook*, which provides relevant information for the TAM programme as well on a variety of issues, such as essay and dissertation writing, university facilities, and how to seek accommodation at foreign sites. This is also issued to students on this degree programme *before* they arrive in Bath.
- All relevant Bath units have detailed handouts, as well as unit descriptors.
- The first week of the academic year in Bath includes an introductory session at which the units offered and structure etc are explained. Students arriving for semester 2 (specialist module 1) will receive an appropriate welcome and introductory lecture by the Director of Studies.
- There is a full-time Bath secretary specifically dedicated to the programme who provides a high level of site back-up. Bath has an overall Director of Studies.
- A range of specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support staff working with their students, as well as take referrals to work more directly with the students. Students can also self-refer to these services. These services can provide information, advice and support in relation to accommodation, emotional difficulties, assessment of needs and provision of support relating to disability, student funding, general welfare, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, international students, spiritual matters, part time work,

security and personal safety. The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. More information about these services can be accessed via: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/>. There are also Medical and Dental Centres, and a Chaplaincy on campus that are very experienced in meeting the needs of a student population, as well as a University nursery and vacation play scheme to provide childcare for older children during the school holiday. All other sites have an academic Euromasters/Trans-Atlantic Masters Coordinator, and sometimes a current research post-graduate Euromasters/ Trans-Atlantic Masters assistant too.

- All other sites are very high quality universities with teaching/research resources commensurate with national standards and their international reputations.
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All taught students will be allocated a Personal Tutor who are responsible for monitoring and supporting the academic progress and general welfare of their students. Staff in these roles will be able to respond to many of the questions and concerns raised by their students.

### **Admissions criteria** (including arrangements for APL/APEL)

Admissions to this programme are the sole responsibility of the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, or its international equivalent, preferably in a relevant subject area (Political Science, History, International Relations, European Studies, American Studies, Economics, or modern languages).

All students are expected to be proficient in English and at least one other language. Students whose native language is not English must demonstrate English proficiency with the TOEFL or IELTS exam. Students who wish to undertake coursework in a language other than English must demonstrate ability in one of the other consortium languages first through a language evaluation to be completed by a university or college faculty member and submitted with the application. Language skills will be screened again at the beginning of the fall semester at UNC in an interview. If the student's language skills are found insufficient for university level coursework, the student will be asked to revise study plans.

ALL applicants are required to take the GRE General Exam. All exam scores must be reported to UNC-CH before the application deadline.

Due to the special nature of the programme it is not possible to award credit under APL or APEL.

### **Summary of assessment and progression regulations**

***Please refer to Annex 2 for Assessment and Progression Regulations.***

Assessment for the *Core Module* and *US National Module* is carried out in accordance with the regulations of the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). Assessment for the *Specialist Modules* will vary across the sites but will typically consist of 4-5 essays/seminar papers, presentations and/or written and oral examinations as appropriate. An aggregated mark will be given for each module, based on the relative weighting of units within the Module.

### **Summary Assessment Regulations**

- All four modules must be passed in order to qualify for the MA in Contemporary European Studies.
- Assessment for the Specialist Modules will vary across the participating universities.

- An aggregated mark will be given for each module, based on the relative weighting of units within the module. Each participating university will apply its own assessment criteria in line with national standards.
- Marking schemes vary across the institutions. The following table demonstrates how the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is used to determine an agreed grade across the institutions:

### **Award of the MA in Contemporary Transatlantic Studies**

- To be considered for a Pass with Merit, candidates must achieve a grade B in two of the modules, one of which must be the research dissertation. At least a C grade must be achieved in the other two modules.
- To be considered for a Pass with Distinction, candidates must achieve a grade A in three of the modules, one of which must be the research dissertation. The fourth module mark must be no lower than a B.

### **Schedule for Board of Examiners and Timings of Re-assessment**

Once assessed work has been marked/moderated and viewed by the external examiner, all marks are considered by a Board of Examiners for Units (BEU) – these typically meet at the end of each semester i.e. February and June, and once the dissertation has been completed in November. Once the marks have been officially agreed by a BEU, they are then collated and subsequently considered by a Board of Examiners for Programmes (BEP).

In the case of **Full-Time students**, BEPs meet at the *end* of the taught stage (in June) to make formal progression decisions and in November to make formal award decisions (including progression with resubmitted dissertations, exit with a lesser award, and failing). Interim sub-BEPs *may* meet at specific point(s) during the taught stage of the programme (typically in February) to monitor student performance. Supplementary BEPs *may* meet in early September to consider supplementary assessment results taken over the summer.

Condoning and/or supplementary assessment requirements/timings/deadlines will usually be recommended at the full BEP in June and in November. All decisions will be based on the Persistent Generic PGT Rules for the programme (<http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>). Whilst final award decisions are normally made at the November BEPs, occasionally where students may have had extensions to their original dissertation deadlines or may have had to submit revised dissertations, final award decisions may have to be made in the June boards (and very occasionally in the February board).

Any decisions regarding condoning and/or supplementary assessment requirements will be based on the Persistent Generic PGT Rules *for the whole taught stage* (<http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>). It should be noted however that, very occasionally, those decisions made *during* the stage may have to be reconsidered at a subsequent BEP, depending on the students' performance during the remainder of the stage, taking into account the timeframe in which supplementary assessment has to be completed. Given the extended durations for dissertations, final award decisions may be delayed beyond the normal November BEP to the following June BEP.

### **Indicators of quality and standards (e.g. professional accreditation)**

#### Overview of Quality and Standards

To assure continuing excellence in its quality and standards, the University of Bath has a quality management framework including:

For more general information on each part of the framework, click on the links.

1. A Quality Assurance Code of Practice, and associated regulations and policies :

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/index.php>

2. A learning, teaching and quality **committee structure** which **monitors quality and standards** and instigates action for enhancement. For further information:

Governance:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/gastatements/QAX/QA03PSGuidQSGov.doc>

Review and Monitoring:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/gastatements/QAX/QA03PSGuidQSRevMon.doc>

3. **Staff development** arrangements that assist staff in enhancing their own performance as educators, as researchers or as professional support services staff. Further information:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/gastatements/QAX/QA03PSGuidQSA SD.doc>

Students are involved in many of these processes. The emphasis here is upon the *informed* student voice - engaging with students as academic citizens to ensure they have opportunities to take an active part in shaping their own learning.

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/gastatements/QAX/QA03PSGuidQSStuVoice.doc>

A more detailed overview of the University's Quality Management framework is set out in this summary document:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/gastatements/QAX/1%20The%20University's%20approach%20to%20quality%20management.doc>

The University's management of its academic standards and quality is subject to external institutional review by the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) on a six year cycle. In its 2013 Institutional Review, the QAA confirmed that the University met its expectations for the management of standards, the quality of learning opportunities, the enhancement of learning opportunities. The University was commended on its provision of information.

### Sources of other information

Website (including links to other universities)at:

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/tam/about.php>

Hard copy packs and other information from the TAM Associate Director: Dr Sarah Hutchison

Email: [tam@unc.edu](mailto:tam@unc.edu)

**Annex 1 Programme Description**

<b>Programme code</b>	THPL-AFM08
<b>Programme title</b>	MA CONTEMPORARY TRANS-ATLANTIC STUDIES
<b>Award type</b>	MASTERS
<b>Award title</b>	MA CONTEMPORARY TRANS-ATLANTIC STUDIES
<b>Mode of Attendance</b>	FULL-TIME
<b>Length</b>	2 YEARS, FULL-TIME
<b>State if coexistent M-level programme</b>	N/A
<b>State any designated alternative programme(s)</b>	M/A
<b>Approving body and date of approval</b>	PROGRAMME APPROVAL PANEL, 30 April 1998; Updated 13.11.13 FLTQC; Updated 23.9.14 FLTQC Updated 09.09.15 FLTQC Chair's Action; Updated 4.5.16 FLTQC; updated March 2017 FLTQC, September 2017

Part	Stage	Normal period of study for this Mode	Unit code	Unit title	Unit status	Credits	DEU status	SRU status	Taught, or Dissertation/ project credits	Notes
	1	S1	<u>Year 1</u>							
						30				At University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
			Five of the following must be taken:							
		S2	PL50663	Organised crime in Europe: threats and challenges	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			PL50768	Britain and Europe	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			PL50868	International Organisations in World Politics	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			PL50884	International Relations of South and Central Asia	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			PL50893	Economic Foreign Policy and the International Trade Regime	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			PL50894	Theories of Conflict & Conflict Resolution	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			PL50982	Politics of Risk	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			ZZ50005	<i>Director of Studies approved unit</i>	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			<u>Year 2</u>							
			Five of the following must be taken:							
		S3	PL50435	Comparative European politics	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			PL50436	European Union policies and policy-making	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
			PL50437	Societal modernisation and the transformation of democracy	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	



		PL50750	International Terrorism	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
		PL50751	International relations theories	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
		PL50763	International security, theories & concepts	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
		PL50785	Memory cultures - memory politics	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
		PL50866	Foreign policy analysis	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
		PL50869	Scopes and methods of politics and international relations	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
		PL50905	Governance, Security and Development in East and South East Asia	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
		PL50978	Politics of Russia in Comparative Perspective	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
		PL50979	The Cultures of Globalisation	O	6	-	Non] SRU	TSC	
		ZZ50005	<i>Director of Studies approved unit</i>	O	6	-	Non SRU	TSC	
2	S4	PL50685	MA in Contemporary European Studies (Euromasters) dissertation	C	30	-	Non SRU	DPC	

Assessment weightings and decision references		
Stage	Weighting within programme	NFAAR-PGT decisions reference See: <a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm">http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm</a>
1	100%	All assessment

where:

C Compulsory

O Optional

OA Optional Audit

Key:

SRU Stage required units

TSC Taught stage credit

DEU Designated essential unit

DPC Dissertation/Project credit

## **Annex 2 Assessment & Progression Regulations**

### **MA Contemporary TransAtlantic Studies**

There are four modules which constitute the overall assessment of this course: the *Core Module*, the *Specialist Module 1*, the *Specialist Module 2* and the *Research Dissertation* (total 120 credits). All four modules must be passed in order to qualify for the MA degree. To obtain the MA, students must pass taught units worth 120 credits with a total combined average of 40% or higher, plus a Dissertation mark of no less than 40%. The MA in Contemporary Transatlantic Studies degree programme does not have a certificate or diploma stage as stopping off points. NB the letter grades referred to below are ECTS ones.

Assessment for the *Specialist Modules* will vary across the sites but will typically consist of 4-5 essays/seminar papers, presentations and/or written and oral examinations as appropriate. An aggregated mark will be given for each module, based on the relative weighting of units within the Module.

Practice over failed essays/units/dissertation varies somewhat from site to site. Typically, students receiving a fail grade (F) for a paper may re-write the paper in order to achieve a pass grade. However, in the event of plagiarism this does not normally apply. Students may normally re-submit no more than one piece of work per module under this provision. A specific deadline for resubmission must be arranged with the site Coordinator/Director of Studies, and should normally be within one month of the original submission date. If the resubmitted work is satisfactory, the grade recorded will be a pass grade. If the resubmitted work is not of adequate standard, there will be no opportunity for further resubmission.

In the event of a failure of the *Research Dissertation*, the dissertation may be resubmitted once within a deadline approved by the respective Dissertation Module Coordinator and the Programme Director of Studies (normally less than three months). This does not apply in cases where the Fail grade is given due to plagiarism. If that piece of work is again unsatisfactory at the Masters' level, the student will be deemed to have failed the degree.

All Bath modules will be marked using a percentage scale, which is converted into a letter ECTS grade for transcripts etc. In order to be awarded the MA degree, students must achieve at least a pass grade in all modules.

All assignments have a stated word length and assessed pieces of work (including the Dissertation) will normally be penalised if they fall outside a +/-10 per cent margin for word lengths.