

Programme Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Programme title	MA in Contemporary European Studies: : Politics, Policy and Society (Euromasters) / Pol...
Awarding Institution//Body	University of Bath
Teaching Institution	University of Bath
Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)	n/a
Subject Benchmark Statement*Subject Benchmark Statement:	n/a
Date of Specification preparation/revision	
Applicable to cohorts	
Programme Approved by	

Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

The overall goal of the programme is to develop fully trained and competent MA holders with a broad knowledge of European states' politics, policies and societies and of the politics and policies of the European Union, who are able to relate European developments to wider, especially trans-Atlantic, East-West and North-South developments, and who can critically discuss and write about these issues.

This degree is based on intensive full-time teaching of 3 modules, plus a dissertation module. All Euromasters students attend a Core Module in Bath from Sept.-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.

Structure and Content :

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

(30 credits; Site = Bath)

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

(30 credits; Sites = Bath, Berlin, Paris, Prague, Siena*) Students studying in North Carolina this term receive the Euromasters with Trans-Atlantic track (TAT) degree.

Semester 3 – Specialist Module 2: European Perspectives on Security

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

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

To be normally submitted by 30 September of the second year of the programme. An earlier submission – possible from 31 March onwards – requires prior Director of Studies approval.

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

Overall credits = 120

NB there is no Certificate or Diploma possibility for this programme.

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 European politics
- To develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the students' own research and to advanced scholarship in the field of contemporary European politics

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 contemporary European politics; • To relate European developments to wider, especially trans-Atlantic, developments and to enhance critical abilities to discuss and write about these issues. • Where appropriate to site choice, to further the foreign language skills of students. • To develop intercultural communication skills. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge & Understanding: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep understanding of the origins, development, current activity and organisation of the institutions of the European Union • Broad-based empirical knowledge of contemporary European politics, policy and society • Critical understanding of contemporary European political problems and how they emerge at sub-national, national and supra-national levels and between them • Key conceptual and theoretical approaches in order to be able to critically analyse such developments • Critical comparative understanding of political issues, both in historical and cross-national terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual Skills: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to select and use appropriate ideas to produce a coherent response to a pre-set question. • Ability to select, summarise and synthesise written information from multiple sources. • Ability to develop rigorous arguments through precise use of concepts and models. • Ability to formulate a manageable research question(s). • Ability to work as a team. • Ability to engage in effective oral academic communication. • Ability to work independently, with limited supervision. • Ability to work to specifications and meet deadlines. <p>By means of the research dissertation, the MA will furthermore enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • Be familiar with quantitative and qualitative methods in political science • 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; • Be able to undertake investigations of political questions, issues and problems in a comparative and European setting; • Be able to distinguish between the normative and pragmatic differences that affect policies and their consequences. • Be able to assess the outcomes of interventions by governments and other organisations to solve political problems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Practical Skills: 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire bibliographic and IT skills, enabling them to identify and use library and other bibliographic resources and maintain a personal research bibliography; • 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; • Where appropriate, have begun to develop a working knowledge of a relevant language for a chosen geographical area(s) of study. • Be familiar with the format and mechanisms for the dissemination of political science research through professional bodies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferable/Key Skills: 	<p>Students will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop writing, presentation and dissemination skills, including Internet-based tools; • Develop skills in effective team working through collaboration in projects; • Develop competency in the presentation of research findings to different audiences; • Develop an understanding of the skills required to engage with the media.

Summary of assessment and progression regulations

Non-NFA

Progression Regulations and Awards

Please refer to Annex 2 below for the full Assessment and Progression Regulations.

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 European Studies: Politics, Policy and Society (Euromasters)

- 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).

In the case of Part-Time students, decisions on condoning and/or supplementary assessment requirements will be made at each June BEP *during* the taught stage (as well as at the *end* of the stage) to avoid the student having to wait until they have completed all their taught units. 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.

Annex 2 Programme Assessment and Progression Regulations

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%. Failure of units in the Core Module worth up to 12 credits in the range 37-39% may be condoned. Students who fail units worth up to 24 credits excluding the Dissertation may, subject to satisfactory completion of supplementary assessment, obtain the MA. If submitted at Bath, such assessment will either be given a pass at 40% or be failed. The Euromasters 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 *Core Module* will typically consist of written assignments of an overall length of 4,000 words for each of the units comprising the module. 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 at Bath (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. 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 Dissertation – and not less than a B in the fourth module.

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.

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 intuitions. The following table demonstrates how the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is used to determine an agreed grade across the institutions:

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

	BATH	PARIS	BERLIN	SIENA	PRAGUE	SEATTLE	NORTH CAROLINA
A=	70% +	16-20	1.0-1.3	29-30	A= vyborne	3.5-4.0	H
excellent							
B=	64%-69%	13-15	1.7-2.3	27-28	B=	2.5-3.4	H- / P+
very good					velmi dobre		
C= good	57%-63%	11-12	2.7 -3.3	24-26		1.7-2.4	P
D=	50%-56%	10	3.7	18-23	C=		P-
satisfactory					dobre		
E=	40%-49%		4				L
sufficient							
F= fail	0%-39%	Below 10	4.1-5.0	Below 18	F= neprospel	Below 1.6	F

Deadlines, extensions, resubmitted work and penalties

- All participating universities will implement a common and transparent policy on submission deadlines, extensions, resubmitted work and penalties which is agreed and regularly reviewed by the Programme Management Committee.
- If no extension has been granted or a piece of work is submitted after the extended submission date, it will normally be marked as a Fail. In accordance with their specific regulations some partner universities may operate a regime whereby unauthorised late submissions of up to 5 days will be assessed at a maximum grade of a pass grade. Any work submitted for assessment (for which there are no mitigating circumstances or an agreed extension) later than five days after the submission date will be marked as F.
- Subject to some variation between participating universities, students receiving a Fail grade (F) for an essay, in accordance with the Institution's regulations, may be recommended by the Programme Board of examiners to re-write the assessment in accordance with supplementary assessment procedures. A specific deadline for resubmission is specified by the Module Coordinator, and should normally be within one month of the Programme Board of Examiners. Students may normally re-submit no more than one piece of work per module under this provision. This regulation does not apply to forms of assessment other than essays (e.g. written/oral examinations or assessed presentations). In the event of proven plagiarism, some intuitions may not permit retrieval of the failed unit.

Bath-specific Procedures/Regulations: Plagiarism Offences (QA53)

- The University of Bath's procedures for dealing with Examination and Assessment Offences, including plagiarism, are set out in [QA53 Examination and Assessment Offences](http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/qastatements/QAX/QA53.pdf): <http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/qastatements/QAX/QA53.pdf>

- 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 at Bath (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. A UK-style PG Diploma for students who do not complete and pass the Dissertation Module is not awarded.

Whilst studying at the University of Bath the following regulations apply:

- **Retrieval (supplementary assessment) rule:**

Failure in up to a maximum of 6 credits (one unit) per University of Bath Taught Module may be retrieved by supplementary assessment. A student will be permitted one attempt only to retrieve a failed unit. Unit marks will be capped at 40% on retrieval.

- **Compensation of condonable failures rule:**
Marginal failure marks of 35%-39% in other than designated essential units (DEUs) will be condoned for up to a maximum of 6 Taught Stage Credits (one unit) per University of Bath Module (and will not stop a student from continuing study for the current award aim (Master).
- **Dissertation/project retrieval rule:** no failure in a dissertation/project unit (DPC) below the bottom limit for marginal failure (defined as unit marks in the range 35%-39%) will be given permission for attempted retrieval through supplementary assessment, and any resubmission that is permitted for marginal failure must be made within a specified period, usually less than 3 months, and not exceeding twelve months from the determination of the original failure. A minimum of 40% must be achieved in order to successfully pass the dissertation.

- All assignments have a stated word limit and assessed pieces of work (including the Dissertation) will normally be penalised if they fall outside a +/-10 per cent margin for word counts. The number of words must be stated on the cover sheet.

Bath-specific Procedures/Regulations: Penalty for exceeding word limits (QA16)

- the marker(s) will stop reading the work once the student has exceeded a word limit (or the upper figure of a word range) by 10%. If a student writes less than the word limit (or the lower figure of a word range) they risk not maximising their potential mark;
- for the purpose of calculating the word count, footnotes are included, whereas contents pages, executive summaries, tables, figures, appendices and reference lists/bibliographies are excluded.

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Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

The degree requires that at least one Module is taken in a foreign country.

Details of Study Abroad Requirements

Details of Professional Accreditation

Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements

Euromasters' students should have an appropriate first degree or equivalent (at First or 2:1 level) from a recognised institution of higher education. Whilst candidates with any academic background may apply, in practice successful applicants are most likely to have qualifications in an area such as the social sciences (especially politics/IR), contemporary history, and European studies. Candidates without such degrees, but who have substantial experience of working at an appropriate level in a European or international company or institution, or who can show suitability in other ways, will be given consideration. Students should be fluent or near-fluent* in English at the beginning

of the degree, plus have the ability to undertake Masters' level study in at least one of the other languages of the degree (French, German, Italian, and Spanish) at the time that they start their studies in the relevant country.

*Minimum English requirements:

- IELTS 6.5 (with not less than 6.0 in each of the four components) or
- TOEFL (internet) 92 overall, 21 Writing, Listening 21, Reading 22, Speaking 23

References

Two references are required. At least one of these should be an academic reference.

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

Details of Support Available to Students

All taught students will be allocated a Personal Tutor and postgraduate research students a supervisor 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. However, there is also a range of specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support these 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 holidays.

Department and Programme Specific Support Information

Programme specific support:

- The degree has a detailed *Student Handbook*, which provides information on a variety of issues, such as essay and dissertation writing, university facilities, and how to seek accommodation at foreign sites. This is issued to students *before* they arrive in Bath.
- There is a dedicated Programme Assistant for the Core Module.
- All relevant Bath units have detailed handouts, as well as unit descriptors.
- The first week in Bath during the Core Module is an academic and social induction week, which includes introductory lectures to all the relevant ESML units, introduction to library resources, a welcome reception, etc.
- 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.
- Other Bath facilities include: study skills support; excellent IT and Library facilities; sports and arts facilities; proactive Student Union; guaranteed accommodation; medical centre; dentist; counselling service; careers advisory service; Learning Support Unit; Chaplaincy; International Office; personal tutorial system; English language tuition; nursery facilities; access to tutors and support staff; Staff/Student Liaison Committee.
- All other sites have an academic Euromasters Coordinator, and sometimes a current research post-graduate Euromasters 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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