



Programme Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Programme title	MA (PG Dip / PG Cert) in International Relations
Awarding Institution//Body	University of Bath
Teaching Institution	University of Bath
Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)	
Subject Benchmark Statement*Subject Benchmark Statement:	No Masters level statement available.
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 contemporary international relations and the dimensions of political interactions between states and non-state entities in the contemporary world,
- of the role of state and non-state actors and of governmental and non-governmental international organisations in the current international order, and
- of the relationship between its different component parts and an ability to critically discuss and write about them.

In its design and implementation, the programme reflects a commitment to the integration of staff members' strong research profiles into teaching, to the application of learning and to a diversity of approaches to learning, teaching and assessment (as set out in the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy).

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.

The Programme includes three potential stopping off points: a PG Certificate, a PG Diploma and the MA. While in principle any of these qualifications may be targeted by a student who enters the programme, experience shows that the large majority of applicants opt for the MA.

A student who targets the **PG Diploma** or the **MA** and who fails, even after opportunities for re-sits, to meet the full requirements for those qualifications, may under certain conditions (see below) be awarded the **PG Certificate** or the **PG Diploma** respectively.

Part-time Study

MA in International Relations

Part-time students will be expected to complete at least one of the compulsory units of Semesters 1 and 2 within the first year of study.

PG Diploma in International Relations

Part-time students will be expected to complete at least one of the compulsory units of Semesters 1 and 2 within the first year of study.

PG Certificate in International Relations

Part-time students will be expected to complete at least one of the compulsory units of Semesters 1 and 2 in the course of their study.

Educational aims of the programme

The Programme has four broad aims:

1. 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 international relations;
2. To develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the students' own research and to advanced scholarship in the field of contemporary international relations;
3. 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 international relations;
4. To develop conceptual understanding:
 - To evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in contemporary International relations; and
 - To evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses for the explanation of a wide range of diverse phenomena in contemporary International relations.

The PG Certificate focuses principally on aim (1), but offers students scope for some specialist application of what they are studying (aim 2) and, through the assessment mode in individual units (e.g., essay), the opportunity to undertake a research enquiry on a modest scale (aim 3).

The PG Diploma gives additional scope for appreciation and application of different methodologies of research in the study of contemporary international relations (aim 2); and since more units are completed by the student, it gives a more substantial opportunity to undertake research of the student's choosing (aim 3).

The MA involves a dissertation which meets aim (3) on a still more substantial scale.

The PG Certificate involves some attention to aim (4), but this progressively increases with the PG Diploma and the MA, as a wider range of research methodologies and their applications in contemporary international relations is critically reviewed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge & Understanding: 	<p>Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the key concepts and theories of international relations and the dimensions of political interactions between states and non-state entities in the contemporary world, of the role of state and non-state actors and of governmental and non-governmental international organisations in the new world order, and the relationship between its different component parts; 2. Understand the origins, development, current activity and organisation of the institutions of the international system; 3. Have knowledge of contemporary international political problems and how they emerge at sub-national, national and supra-national levels and between them; 4. Have a comparative understanding of international political issues, both in historical and contemporary terms. <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 and 2; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcome 3 and provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 4, while the MA will ensure that students achieve all four learning outcomes.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and guided reading. • Student seminar presentations (individual or group) with tutorial guidance and peer feedback • Active participation in research seminar programmes of the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and its research centres • Monitoring of individual academic development with personal tutor. <p>Assessment Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework essays of normally 4,000 words length (in some units this may vary). • Problem-orientated group assignments for seminars. • A supervised MA dissertation of 15,000 words in length on a topic agreed between supervisor and supervisee. • Unseen examinations may be used to test knowledge of more narrowly defined concepts and issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual Skills: 	

Students will be able to

1. 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;
2. Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.
3. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;

The **PG Certificate** will particularly focus on learning outcome 1 and, to a lesser extent on learning outcome 2; the **PG Diploma** will have an additional moderate focus on learning outcome 3, while the **MA** will ensure that students achieve all three learning outcomes.

They will also

1. Be familiar with quantitative and qualitative methods in political studies;
2. Be able to apply problem-solving skills in seeking solutions to international political problems in a supra-national as well as national and sub-national context;
3. Be able to undertake investigations of political questions, issues and problems in an international context;
4. Be able to distinguish between the normative and pragmatic differences that affect policies and their consequences.
5. Be able to assess the outcomes of interventions by governments and other organisations to solve international political problems;

The **PG Certificate** will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 to 3; the **PG Diploma** will have an additional focus on learning outcome 4 and provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 5, while the **MA** will ensure that students achieve all five learning outcomes.

Teaching and Learning Methods:

- Lectures and guided reading.
- Student seminar presentations with tutorial guidance and peer feedback
- Active participation in research seminar programmes of the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and its research centres.
- Monitoring of personal development with personal tutor.
- Supervised dissertation.

Assessment Methods:

- Coursework essays of normally 4,000 words length (in some units this may vary).
- Problem-orientated group assignments for seminars.
- A supervised MA dissertation of 15,000 words in length on a topic agreed between supervisor and supervisee.
- Unseen examinations may be used to test knowledge of more narrowly defined concepts and issues.

- Professional Practical Skills:

	<p>Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire bibliographic skills, enabling them to identify and use library and other bibliographic resources and maintain a personal research bibliography; 2. Be able to evaluate research, including undertaking refereeing and book reviews; 3. 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; 4. Where appropriate, have begun to develop a working knowledge of a relevant language for a chosen geographical area(s) of study. 5. Be familiar with the format and mechanisms for the dissemination of political science and IR research through professional bodies, including conference papers, posters and journal articles, and the process of peer review. <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 and 2; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcomes 3 and 4 and provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 5, while the MA will ensure that students achieve all six learning outcomes.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction course in bibliographic, IT and research skills, with particular reference to resources that can be accessed through the University • Lectures and guided reading. • Explicit attention to the afore-mentioned professional practical skills within all taught units, as appropriate. • Applying, testing and honing the afore-mentioned professional practical skills, by writing essays and giving presentations and receiving appropriate feedback from peers and faculty, and by undertaking a fully supervised dissertation. • Active participation in research seminar programmes of the Department, the Faculty and its research centres, with students preparing reflective and critical evaluations of the research presented in the seminars during the course of each semester. • Use where appropriate of the University's wide range of language programmes, and University-accredited language tutors. • Monitoring of personal development with personal tutor. <p>Assessment Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework essays of normally 4,000 words length . • Problem-orientated group assignments for seminars. • A supervised MA dissertation of 15,000 words in length on a topic agreed between supervisor and supervisee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferable/Key Skills: 	

Students will

1. Develop writing, presentation and dissemination skills, including Internet-based tools;
2. Develop career management skills, including skills in using new technologies for obtaining information about new career opportunities, skills in networking and negotiation, evaluation of personal and career development needs, self-promotion and marketing;
3. Have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - o The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;
 - o Decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; and
 - o The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development;
4. Develop skills in effective team working through collaboration in projects;
5. Develop competency in the presentation of research findings to practitioners and lay audiences;
6. Develop an understanding of how the media communicates specialist material to lay audiences, and the skills required to engage with the media, such as writing press releases and being interviewed.
7. Develop research management skills, including the development of research proposals for external funding, time and resource planning and monitoring, archiving of data and completion of end-of-award reports to sponsors.

The **PG Certificate** will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 to 4, but also provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 5; the **PG Diploma** will have an additional focus on learning outcome 6 and provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 6, while the **MA** will ensure that students achieve all seven learning outcomes.

Teaching and Learning Methods:

- Seminars by MA programme assistant in writing, presentation and dissemination skills, including Internet-based tools.
- Explicit attention to the afore-mentioned transferable/key skills within all taught units, as appropriate.
- Applying, testing and honing the afore-mentioned transferable/key skills, by writing essays and giving presentations and receiving appropriate feedback from peers and faculty, and by undertaking a fully supervised dissertation.
- Active participation in research seminar programmes of the Department, the Faculty and its research centres, with students reflecting critically on the research presented in the seminars during the course of each semester.
- Monitoring of personal development with personal tutor.

Assessment Methods:

- Problem-oriented group assignments which can demonstrate the acquisition and application of these skills.
- Coursework essays and the Dissertation, involve exercise of some of the afore-mentioned professional practical skills, and are assessed in part by reference to them.
- In connection with their participation in the research seminar programmes of the Department, the Faculty and its research centres, students present critical appreciations for non-expert audiences of the research presented in the seminars during the course of each semester.

Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

Progression Regulations and Awards

MA: One year, full-time residential; two years part-time residential;

PG Dip: Two semester full-time residential; two years part-time residential;

PG Cert: One semester full-time residential; two years part-time residential.

The programmes assessment and progression regulations are covered by the university's "New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations: Phases 2 & 3 for postgraduate taught programmes (NFAAR-PGT)" which can be found at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm>. Specific regulations for the masters are summarised in Appendix 11 at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>.

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.

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

Details of Study Abroad Requirements

Details of Professional Accreditation

Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements

1. Students should normally have a 2.1 or first class degree in the social sciences or equivalent first degree in another subject plus relevant experience.
2. For those with English as a second language a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5 is normally required, with at least 6.0 in all components. Alternatively a TOEFL (internet) score of 92. Pre-sessional English language training may be required to help some applicants to obtain this.
3. Two references are required, of which one must be an academic reference.
4. The award of credit for accredited prior learning (APL) or accredited prior experiential learning (APEL) may be offered for up to 12 credits towards the PG Certificate, 24 credits towards the PG Diploma and 36 credits towards the MA.

Details of Support Available to Students

Undergraduate students will be allocated a Personal Tutor, postgraduate taught students a course manager 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**Provision of additional support by the department:**

1. Initial induction programme to clarify expectations, brief students on available learning resources, strengthen group identity and reflect upon diverse learning styles.
2. Detailed programme handbook and outlines for each Unit.
3. Each student has access to the Director of Studies of the MA programme, the politics MA programme administrator and a wide range of additional staff within the Department and Faculty able to assist in more specialised areas.
4. Mutual support among those enrolled together on the programme is also very important, and students are encouraged to develop this, particularly during the induction phase and structured social activities.

Faculty website: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/hss/>

Departmental website: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/polis/>

Postgraduate brochure: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/prospectus/postgrad/>

The department has been ranked highly in the most recent RAE and regularly occupies a top-10 position in league tables.