

Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	PGDip International Relations
Name of interim award(s):	PGCert
Duration of study / period of registration:	2 academic years (part time)
Queen Mary programme code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	Politics and International Relations
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Politics and International Relations

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Programme outline

The PGDip 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 change associated with globalisation 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 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 globalisation 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:

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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 globalisation 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.

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 activities and engaging with the on-line seminars. Students will have a dedicated Tutor who will be available for feedback and queries equivalent to office hours on our on-campus modules through the on-live platform.

How will you be assessed?

Assessments will be primarily in the form of research essays, although some modules might include report writing, developing fact sheets, book and article reviews, writing a series of blog entries, creating a folder, or writing a policy briefing.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Students must take one compulsory module then three core modules on rotation. Students must also take the Dissertation module. There will be September and May intakes each year for this programme.

Study will be organised as follows:

Year 1 Sem 1 - POLM090 Contemporary World Politics, Theories, Concepts, Themes

Year 1 Sem 2 - One of POLM075 Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy, POLM073 Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development, POLM096 War and International Security

Year 2, Sem 1 - One of POLM075 Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy, POLM073 Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development, POLM096 War and International Security

Year 2, Sem 2 - One of POLM075 Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy, POLM073 Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development, POLM096 War and International Security

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Contemporary World Politics, Theories, Concepts, Themes (Distance Learning)	POLM090	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

Programme Title: MA International Relations

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development (Distance Learning)	POLM073	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2	1 or 2
War and International Security	POLM096	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2	1 or 2
Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy (Distance Learning)	POLM075	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2	1 or 2

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum of an upper-second class honours degree in Politics, International Relations or a related discipline. Professional experience relevant to the programme can be taken into consideration for border line applications. Students should also have IELTS 7 (including 6.5 in the writing component), if your first language is not English.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to 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/remote meetings.

What academic support is available?

Students will be designated a personal tutor who will be available to communicate with students 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

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

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 DL programme intends organising one event per year that will include practitioners to which all students are invited.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Burcu Biltekin

Person responsible for management of programme:

Prof Jef Huysmans

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:

24 Nov 2022

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: