Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MSc in Public Policy
Name of Interim Award(s)	PGDip, PGCert
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	12 months (FT);
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	M1UT
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	21 Aug 2014
Responsible School / Institute	School of Politics and International Relations

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

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

Public Policy is the study of how problems are addressed within political institutions. Through studying public policy, students gain theoretical and practical insights into policy formation and implementation. Students take taught courses which allow them to explore the development, implementation and evaluation of a wide range of policies. By the end of the programme, they will have a strong grasp of the theoretical tools and empirical evidence necessary for an in-depth understanding of the policy-making process.

Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to equip students with the capacity to think critically about the theory and practice of policy-making in the modern state. To this end, students will be introduced to rival conceptions of rationality and decision-making, including instrumental, strategic and communicative rationality approaches to public administration.
• To enable students to use the approaches and paradigms to study current and historic events and issues in global politics.
• To develop a critical awareness of approaches to the study of global politics.

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What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

Academic Content:	
A 1	Compare different approaches to the study of public policy and identify the differences between them.
A 2	Identify the assumptions made and concepts used by different theoretical approaches to the study of public policy politics.
A 3	Critically discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the competing approaches studied on the programme.
A 4	Understand the political and organisational world within which efforts are made to influence and control public policy

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Communicate ideas, both orally and in written form, to others and in a clear, coherent and detailed fashion.
B 2	Articulate, both orally and in writing, a theoretical account and critique of different approaches in public policy.
B 3	Demonstrate knowledge of the competing conceptions of rationality and decision-making that inform work in public policy and public administration.
B 4	Critically reflect on their peers' and their own arguments, orally as well as in writing.

Attributes:	
C 1	Able to do independent research.
C 2	Able to apply theory and methods to concrete issues and cases.

How Will You Learn?

The programme will be delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars and individual tutorials.

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How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment will be by essay and examination.

There may be some variation in the assessment for particular options offered across the School and Faculty.

How is the Programme Structured?

Students enrolling on this MSc programme will take the following compulsory and core modules each worth 30 credits:
COMPULSORY
• POLM001 Theories of the Policy-making Process (30 credits)
• POLM058 Political Analysis (0 credits)
• POLM003 Implementation and Evaluation (30 credits)

In addition, students must choose two optional modules (worth 30 credits each), one from list A and one from list B.
Alternatively students can choose two 15 credit optional modules in each semester, in addition to the compulsory module.

Before taking any other optional modules, students must seek the approval of both their advisor and the course convenors of the modules they wish to take.

Students will then prepare a dissertation, worth 60 credits (12,000 words).

Academic Year of Study   1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Theories of Policy Making Process	POLM001	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Implementation & Evaluation	POLM003	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Dissertation	POLM017	30	7	Core	1	Semester 3
Nationalism, Democracy and Cosmopolitanism	POLM016	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development	POLM026	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context	POLM027	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy	POLM040	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Approaches to Political Economy	POLM059	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Case Studies in British and EU Policy-Making	POLM072	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Political Analysis	POLM058	0	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
International Public Policy: Concepts and Practice	POLM050	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
EU as an International Actor	POLM079	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Working in Parliament	POLM064	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Working for a Political Party	POLM063	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Politics and the Media	POLM061	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Public Opinion in British Politics	POLM062	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Working in Think Tanks	POLM070	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Lobbying and Public Affairs	POLM071	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Upper-second class honours degree in Politics, International Relations, Critical Theory or a related discipline.
Proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 7.5

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How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between Schools 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 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 this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the module evaluations.

Academic Support

Students take part in a School wide induction programme. They will have a designated personal tutor as well as a designated dissertation supervisor, both of whom will meet with the students on a regular basis. The School has a Senior Tutor for MA students who will also be available to see students.
Students are also kept informed about support and help available either within the school, such as dedicated personal adviser weeks, or support workshops organised by Advice and Counselling at QM or the Language and Learning Unit, via the postgraduate administrator and school office.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Specific Support for Disabled Students

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.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

N/A

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification	Paul Copeland
Person responsible for management of programme	Paul Copeland
Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School Learning and Teaching Committee	20 Aug 2014
Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board	21 Aug 2014

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