Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
2013-14

Programme Title	Masters in International Relations and Global Governance
UCAS/JACS Code	L240 L250
School/Subject Area	School of Languages and Social Sciences – Politics and International Relations
Final Award	MA
Interim Award(s)	Diploma
Mode(s) of Study	Full-time or part-time
Normal Length of Programme	Twelve-months full-time; two years part-time
Total Credits	180
Programme Accredited By	---
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	Written January 2011; Revised January 2012; Revised April 2012, format change August 2013

Educational Aims of the Programme	To provide a Master's programme that enables students to analyse the activities, influence and impact of international actors and global governance; To give students substantial high-level academic expertise in the fields of international relations and global governance; To develop the ability to critically evaluate the development of globalisation, international relations and global governance, from theoretical and practical perspectives; To develop sophisticated analytical and communication skills, especially in the framework of dissertation, class discussion and seminars; To open the way vocationally either to postgraduate research at doctoral level or to careers in the private, voluntary or public sectors, which draw on the knowledge and understanding gained during this degree programme.
Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	*Bologna Agreement* [European Higher education Area: Joint Declaration of the European Ministers of Education convened in …], 1999 QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 (2011) ESRC, *Postgraduate Training Guidelines*, 2009 ESRC – PSA – BISA, *International Benchmarking Review of UK Politics and International Studies*, 2007 Aston University, *Learning & Teaching Strategy 2012-2020*

TAUGHT STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
International Relations Theory	20	7	LPM006	Core	N	N
Globalisation, Regionalism and Global Governance	20	7	LPM026	Core	N	N
Choice of options totalling 80 Aston credits.						
International Relations and the Global Order	20	7	LPM016	Option	Y	N
Transatlantic Relations in Historical Perspective: The US and Europe	20	7	LPM029	Option	Y	N
Germany and the World	20	7	LPM030	Option	Y	N
Europe's Regions and their Governance	20	7	LPM013	Option	Y	N
When is a Nation? Nationalism and Identity	20	7	LPM032	Option	Y	N
International Security	20	7	LPM034	Option	Y	N
Cities and Regions in the Global Economy	20	7	LPM035	Option	Y	N
Asia-Europe Relations: Between Interregionalism and Bilateralism	20	7	LPM014	Option	Y	N
Research Methods	40	7	LPM003	Option	Y	N
International Ethics and Literature	20	7	LPM027	Option	Y	N
The EU and its Neighbours	20	7	LPM028	Option	Y	N
Leaders and Leadership in a European and Global Context	20	7	LPM011	Option	Y	N
International Migration: Dynamics, Challenges and Dilemmas	20	7	LPM012	Option	Y	N
US Foreign Policy in the Cold War	20	7	LPM031	Option	Y	N
Religion and Politics	20	7	LPM015	Option	Y	N
Security and Defence in Europe	20	7	LPM022	Option	Y	N
International Political Communication	20	7	LPM023	Option	Y	N
Comparative and International Political Economy	20	7	LPM036	Option	Y	N
Language Module (10 credits per term)	20		as appropriate	Option	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

DISSERTATION STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
MA Dissertation	60	7	LRM005	Core	N	N
TOTAL	60					

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. Knowledge and Understanding			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	The theoretical and practical perspectives on the relationship between international relations and global governance	Classes comprising lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions Guided study Individual research MA dissertation writing workshop	Essays Dissertation Task-focussed continuous assessment Oral presentations Class discussions Formative class tests Policy reports Portfolios Examinations
2	The social and political understanding of globalisation and transnational actors		
3	Key issues and case studies in understanding the activities and influence of transnational actors		
4	How to design and carry out a research project in the field of international relations.		

B. Intellectual Skills			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Select, gather and use with ease relevant primary source material relating to the fields of international relations and global governance, including official documents and statistics	Classes comprising lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions Guided study Individual research MA dissertation writing workshop	Essays Dissertation Task-focussed continuous assessment Oral presentations Class discussions Formative class tests Written examinations
2	Apply social-science research methods, including quantitative ones, for the analysis of international relations and global governance		

3	Identify, analyse and formulate appropriate policies for global governance, from both political and economic perspectives at national and supranational levels		
4	Identify, analyse and formulate appropriate policies in respect of global decision-making processes		
5	Research in depth contemporary international relations and global governance		

	C. <u>Professional Skills</u>		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Deploy a broadly based expertise, whether in private or public sector employment, in dealing with practical issues and problems, relating to the fields of international relations and global governance	Classes comprising lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions Guided study Individual research	Essays Dissertation Task-focussed continuous assessment Oral presentations Class discussions Formative class tests Written examinations
2	Deploy a specialist expertise, whether in private or public sector employment, in handling decisions, regulations and directives issued by international organisations and national political institutions		
3	To be able to make judgements regarding the suitability of different policy and implementation strategies to address current social and political issues		
4	Read and analyse material produced by state actors and supranational organisations		

	D. **Transferable Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	High-quality writing skills	Classes comprising lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions Guided study Individual research MA dissertation writing workshop	Essays Dissertation Task-focussed continuous assessment Oral presentations Class discussions Formative class tests Written examinations
2	Social-science research skills		
3	Policy-oriented problem solving skills		
4	Multi-purpose research skills		

Entry Requirements	Normally, at least a 2.1 honours classification in a degree taken in an appropriate subject at a British or Irish university, or an equivalent qualification on the completion of appropriate tertiary-level studies elsewhere. Candidates whose first language is not English must satisfy one of the following minimal requirements: • An IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of Band 7 in Writing and Band 6 in Speaking, Reading and Listening, or • TOEFL 105 (with 25 minimum in Writing and Speaking and 23 minimum in Reading and Listening), or • Pearson Academic results of minimum 68 in Writing and Speaking and minimum 61 in Listening and Reading. or • Evidence that their undergraduate degree was taught mainly or entirely in English
Programme Regulations	Attendance requirements: Students are required to attend the compulsory MA dissertation writing workshop Dissertation/Project Requirements (Postgraduate Programmes) 15,000 words. Subject must lie in the fields of international relations and global governance

Further Information	All students will be required to take part in a 2-day dissertation skills workshop prior to commencing their dissertation writing. This workshop will train the students in advanced study skills, introduce the research design process, cover ethical and moral considerations, and offer training in both qualitative and quantitative research skills through activity-centred learning exercises. This workshop will be team taught by PIR staff.
This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.	