PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MSc International Security and Global Governance** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip International Security and Global Governance PG Cert International Security and Global Governance PG Cert Politics
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Social Science
Location of delivery	Central London, online
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September, January
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	NA
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Politics and International Relations
Birkbeck Course Code	TMSICGIP_C (on-campus study) TMSICGMX_C (flexible study) TMSICGON_C (online study) TMSICGBJ_C (on-campus, January start)
HECoS Code	100489
Start date of programme	October 2004
Date of programme approval	Summer 2004
Date of last programme amendment approval	May 2023
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	03/05/2023

Admissions requirements

A second class honours degree (2:2 or above) in a related area, or relevant experience combined with an adequate academic background (subject to interview).

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

Our MSc International Security and Global Governance explores urgent contemporary debates about geopolitics, war, security and world order from a global perspective.

As the Ukraine war demonstrates, geopolitical rivalries among major powers can combine with more local sources of conflict and violence to increase the threat of war between states, At the same time, social and economic inequalities within and between states continue to shape international security, while the planetary climate emergency poses special challenges for global governance. Our approach works across disciplines, incorporating political, theoretical, historical, sociological and public policy approaches to produce comprehensive, balanced analyses of contemporary political controversies.

Core modules will examine the changing nature of war, violence and security, and their relationship with state and society. They provide a historical understanding of the evolution of global military, diplomatic and multilateral institutions, and the ideas that shaped them.

You then choose option modules from a wide variety of topics including international security, American foreign policy, globalisation, political theory and sociology, war and humanitairanism, nationalism and religion, and international political economy. The culmination of the course is applying the concepts and methods you have learnt to write a dissertation on the subject that interests you most.

Course structure

The programme is carefully structured to provide students with an interdisciplinary education in the International Security and Global Governance. Students must take, and pass, the programme's core modules, Global Politics, Governance and Security, and War, Politics and Society They then select two optional modules from a wide and varied list of modules closely connected to the programme's learning objectives.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)*
Full-time – 1 year, October start					
7	POSO082S7	Global Politics, Governance and Security	30	Core	1
7	POSO035S7	War, Politics and Society	30	Core	2
7		Option 1	30	Option	1, 2, 3
7		Option 2	30	Option	1, 2, 3
7		Dissertation	60	Core	3
Part-time – 2 years, October start					
Year 1					
7	POSO082S7	Global Politics, Governance and Security	30	Core	1
7		Option 1	30	Option	1, 2, 3

Year 2					
7	POSO035S7	War, Politics and Society	30	Core	2
7		Option 2	30	Option	1, 2, 3
7		Dissertation	60	Core	3**
Full-time – 1 year, January start					
7	POSO035S7	War, Politics and Society	30	Core	Spring
7		Option 1	30	Option	Summer
7		Option 2	30	Option	Spring or Summer
7	POSO082S7	Global Politics, Governance and Security	30	Core	Autumn
7		Dissertation	60	Core	Summer/ Autumn submissio n in Jan 1 year after prog start
Part-time – 2 years, January start					
Year 1					
7		Option 1	30	Option	Spring
7	POSO082S7	Global Politics, Governance and Security	30	Core	Autumn
Year 2					
7	POSO035S7	War, Politics and Society	30	Core	Spring
7		Option 2	30	Option	Summer
7		Dissertation	60	Core	Summer/ Autumn submissio n in Jan 2 years after prog start
Indicative options					
7	SSPO120S7	Emerging Powers in World Politics	30	Option	3
7	SSPO121S7	Geopolitics, Environment & Resources	30	Option	1
7	SSPO144S7	Food, Politics & Society	30	Option	1
7	SSPO266S7	European & International Public Policy	30	Option	1
7	POSO020S7	Modern British Politics	30	Option	1
7	POSO023S7	Political Sociology of the Modern State	30	Option	2
7	SSPO267S7	Political Communication and Citizen Engagement in the Digital World	30	Option	2
7	POSO022S7	Political Theory & Contemporary Politics	30	Option	1
7	POSO025S7	Public Policy: Interests, Ideas & Institutions	30	Option	2
7	SSPO245H7	Experiments in Social Science	15	Option	3
7	SSPO236H7	The Political Economy of the Public Sector	15	Option	3
7	SSPO019S7	Masterclass in Social Research	30	Option	3
Note: Students may be able to take other relevant option modules from within or outside of Politics on the agreement of the programme director.					

1=Spring, 2=Summer, 3=Autumn
***In term 3 of year 1, part-time students undertake initial preparatory work for their dissertation which is completed at the end of the second year.*

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*
Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*
Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

Indicative list of options available in the Department of Politics:

SSPO267S7: Political Communication and Citizen Engagement in a Digital World
POSO025S7: Public Policy: Ideas, interests, institutions
POSO023S7: The Political Sociology of the Modern State
POSO022S7: Political Theory and Contemporary Politics
SSP0121S7: Geopolitics, Environment and Resources
SSPO144S7: Food, Politics and Society
POSO020: Modern British Politics
POSO025S7: Public Policy: Interests, Ideas, Institutions

Note: option choices for students taking a fully online route through the programme are restricted to those being offered with an online seminar.

***In term 3 of year 1, part-time students undertake initial preparatory work for their dissertation which is completed at the end of the second year.*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.*:*

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will mainly be through essays and online examinations (usually completed at home or in a workspace in college), but may also involve short written exercises, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical assessments, case studies, learning journals, or problems to solve.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:

- understand the changing nature of war, violence and security, and their relationship with state and society
- advance a historical perspective on the evolution of global military, humanitarian and governance structures and the ideas that shaped them.
- analyse political debates and issues in a critical manner

On successful completion of this programme students will be expected to have:

- extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities
- demonstrated the ability to conduct an independent research project.
- developed their ability to obtain and analyse information from a wide array of sources

Careers and further study

You will find Politics of Environment and Resources graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- research positions in universities and other public and private research bodies;
- teaching in higher, further, and secondary education;
- jobs in central and local government, trades unions, political parties, NGOs and international organisations;
- (political) journalism
- political/ civic activism
- political consultancy

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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