PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MSc Global Political Economy** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip Global Political Economy PG Cert Global Political Economy PG Cert Politics
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences (Home) Birkbeck Business School, Law School
Location of delivery	Central London, online, flexible
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) October, January
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMSGLEIP_C - on-campus study, Oct start TMSGLEON_C - online study, Oct start TMSGLEMX_C - flexible study, Oct start TMSGLJIP_C - on-campus study, Jan start TMSGLJON_C - online study, Jan start TMSGLJMX_C - flexible study, Jan start
HECoS Code	100618
Start date of programme	Autumn 2020
Date of programme approval	Spring 2020
Date of last programme amendment approval	June 2025
Valid for academic entry year	**2026-27**
Date of last revision to document	01/12/2025

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

The course offers a theoretically robust, analytically diverse and policy-relevant approach to investigating the interplay of global economic and political forces shaping our world, and will appeal to a wide range of home and international applicants. Students will:

- Develop an in-depth understanding of actors and structures governing the global economy;
- Examine the political context of the dynamics of global trade, finance and production to make sense of the current trajectory of international capitalism;
- Explore how issues central to global political economy are linked to international politics and can be approached from adjacent fields such as law, economics and management; and
- Learn to critically apply the broad range of concepts, theories and methods in the discipline of international / global political economy to independently research real-world phenomena.

Together, the three interlinked Business/Law/Social Science programmes will also foster the development of a distinct learning community of postgraduate political economy students, which will likely have a positive long-term impact on our research environment.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year, October start					
7	POSO007S7	International Political Economy	30	Core	1
7	SC05001S7	Governing Global Capitalism	30	Core	2
7		Option	30	Option	1, 2,or 3
7		Option	30	Option	1, 2,or 3
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation	60	Core	3
Part-time – 2 years, October start					
Year 1					
7	POSO007S7	International Political Economy	30	Core	1
7	SC05001S7	Governing Global Capitalism	30	Core	2
Year 2					
7		Option	30	Option	1or 3
7		Option	30	Option	2
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation	60	Core	3*

Full-time- 1 Year, January start					
7	SC05001S7	Governing Global Capitalism	30	Core	2
7		Option	30	Option	2 or 3
7		Option	30	Option	3
7	POSO007S7	International Political Economy	30	Core	1
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation	60	Core	1
Part-Time – 2 Years, January start					
Year 1					
7	SC05001S7	Governing Global Capitalism	30	Core	2
7		Option	30	Option	3
7	POSO007S7	International Political Economy	30	Core	1
Year 2					
7		Option	30	Option	2 or 3
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation	60	Core	1*

Indicative options (Politics)**					
7	SSPO120S7	Emerging Powers in World Politics (hyflex)	30	Option	3
7	SC05003S7	Perspectives on Public Services & the Public Sector (hyflex)	30	Option	1 or 2 (TBC)
7	POSO044S7	Nationalism, Religion & Conflict (in-person)	30	Option	2
7	POSO082S7	Global Politics, Governance and Security (in-person & online)	30	Option	1
7	SSPO267S7	Political Communication and Citizen Engagement in the Digital World (hyflex)	30	Option	1
7	POSO022S7	Political Theory & Contemporary Politics (hyflex)	30	Option	3
7	POSO035S7	War, Politics and Society (hyflex)	30	Option	2
7	SC05004S7	International Negotiations & Conflict Resolution (in-person)	30	Option	3
7	SSPO245H7	Experiments in Social Science (hyflex)	15	Option	3
7	SC05001S7	Governing Global Capitalism (hyflex)	30	Option	2
7	SSPO243H7	Qualitative Research Design (hyflex)	15	Option	2
7	SSPO242H7	Qualitative Social Research Methods (hyflex)	15	Option	1
7	SSPO239H7	Introduction to Quantitative Social Research (TBC)	15	Option	1
7	SSPO241H7	Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research (hyflex)	15	Option	3
7	SSPO240H7	Applied Social Data Analysis in R (TBC)	15	Option	2
7	SSPO019S7	Masterclass in Social Research (hyflex)	30	Option	3

Indicative level 6 options – Please note: Students may take n**o more than 30 credits at level 6** in the total credits considered for the award. Modules taken at level 6 **DO NOT** contribute to the determination of pass, merit or distinction.					
6	SSPO122S6	Parliamentary Studies (in-person)	30	Option	1
6	POSO036S6	Politics and the Middle East (in-person)	30	Option	3
6	POSO013S6	Social and Political Theory (in-person)	30	Option	3
Indicative options (Economics)					
7	BUEM087S7	Economics: Theory, Policy and Institutions (in-person)	30	Option	1
7	BUMN069H7	Institutions, Governance and Development (in-person)	30	Option	2

* Part-time students undertake initial preparatory work for their dissertation in Term 3 of Year 1; dissertation is completed at the end of Term 3 of the second year. Part-time January-start students undertake initial preparatory work for their dissertation during Terms 2 or 3 of their second year (depending on which term they are taking their option); which will be completed in Term 1 of the second year.

All compulsory modules are delivered via hyflex allowing in-person and online attendance. Nearly all Politics PG option modules are delivered hyflex along with numerous other PG modules across the School, giving both October-start and January-start students a wide range of option choices.

** At least one option should normally be taken from Politics.

All compulsory modules are delivered via hyflex allowing in-person and online attendance.

Options planned for online or hyflex delivery are indicated.

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

30 credits of options can be taken from the wider college, with some disciplinary restrictions.

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

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.

The programme is offered in person and there is also a fully online route. Students may also select to take some modules in-person and some online. Options for students taking the fully online route are restricted to modules offered in the School with an online/hyflex seminar. Pre-recorded lectures are provided online for both in-person and online modes. In-person and online classes run once a week.

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, 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.

Students completing this degree programme will be able to:

- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the key concepts and major theories of the field of global political economy and a good scholarly grasp of the evolution of global capitalism;
- Critically analyse related contemporary issues, from the dynamics of global production, trade and finance to global economic governance and the structure of North-South relations;
- Demonstrate awareness and appreciation of contributions to political-economic analysis from other social disciplines such as law and management;
- Undertake supervised independent research in a topic within the field of global political economy to a good standard and effectively convey findings of such research in academic style; and
- Demonstrate skills of analysis and critique that can be transferred to further study in the social sciences and humanities.

Careers and further study

You will find Global Political Economy 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 onthe careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in itsCommon Award Scheme Regulations and Policiespublished 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.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the 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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