

Programme Specification (PG)

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| Awarding body / institution: | Queen Mary University of London |
| Teaching institution: | Queen Mary University of London |
| Name of final award and programme title: | MRes in Public Policy |
| Name of interim award(s): | PGCert, PGDip |
| Duration of study / period of registration: | 1 calendar year FT, 2 calendar years PT |
| QMUL programme code(s): | |
| QAA Benchmark Group: | N/A |
| 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:

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Institution(s) other than QMUL that will provide some teaching for the programme:

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Programme outline

This MRes degree is designed to provide students with an advanced theoretical and practical understanding of policy processes and to offer a grounding in research methods up to PhD level. The programme is focused around current debates on policy-making and public management in both developed and developing countries.

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. The course further aims to provide students with a comprehensive training in the core research methods of the social sciences, including both qualitative and

quantitative research techniques. Students will be encouraged to relate their understanding of the nature of rationality and decision-making to issues of appropriate research design and data interpretation in the policy world.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Students will be expected to achieve the following:

Academic Content:

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| A 1 | • Demonstrate knowledge of the competing conceptions of rationality and decision-making that inform work in public policy and public administration. |
| A 2 | • Understand the political and organisational world within which efforts are made to influence and control public policy |
| A 3 | • Relate debates concerning the nature of rationality to the interpretation of social science data. |

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

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| B 1 | • Articulate, both orally and in writing, a theoretical account and critique of different approaches in political theory and in the study of global politics. |
| B 2 | • Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate methodologies in political theory and in the study of global politics and undertake a piece of extended, independent research. |
| B 3 | |

Attributes:

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| C 1 | • Construct and implement a research proposal within the discipline of political science |
| C 2 | • Display competence in the use of both qualitative and quantitative research techniques in the social sciences |
| C 3 | Think critically and systematically about competing arguments, ideas and interpretations |

How will you learn?

The programme will be delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, and individual research supervision

How will you be assessed?

Students will be assessed by research essays, presentations and a dissertation

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The full-time programme structure will be as follows:

Core modules

- POLM017 Dissertation (60 credits)

Semester A

- POLM092 Theories and Concepts in Public Policy (30 credits)
- POLM082 Introduction to Social Science Research 1: Epistemology, Research design, and Qualitative methods (30 credits)

Semester B

- POLM083 Introduction to Social Science Research 2: Quantitative Methods and Data (30 credits)
- POLM025 Evaluation and Delivery in Public Policy (30 credits)

The part-time programme structure will be as follows:

Year 1 Sem 1 - POLM082 Introduction to Social Science Research 1

Year 1 Sem 2 - POLM083 Introduction to Social Science Research 2

Year 2 Sem 1 - POLM092 Theories and Concepts in Public Policy

Year 2 Sem 2 - POLM025 Evaluation and Delivery in Public Policy

Year 2 Sem 3 - Dissertation

Academic Year of Study

| Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester |
|---|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Introduction to Social Science Research 1: Epistemology, Research design, and Qualitative methods | POLM082 | 30 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semester 1 |
| Introduction to Social Science Research 2: Quantitative Methods and Data | POLM083 | 30 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semester 2 |
| Theories and Concepts in Public Policy | POLM092 | 30 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semester 1 |
| Evaluation and Delivery in Public Policy | POLM025 | 30 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semester 2 |
| Dissertation | POLM017 | 60 | 7 | Core | 1 | Semester 3 |

What are the entry requirements?

Upper second class honours or equivalent in a cognate subject. IELTS 7.0 with 6.5 in the writing component

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 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.

What academic support is available?

All students enrolled on this programme will be allocated a personal adviser, who will be available throughout the year to provide academic as well as pastoral support. Advisers will be allocated by the programme organiser in consultation with the Masters committee. Advisers will advise on module choice and hold supervision meetings to develop dissertation proposals. Module convenors and other members of staff will be available at designated times each week to see students to discuss academic issues relating to their particular modules. A programme induction will be provided for all incoming students during Welcome Week. This will acquaint students with the format of the programme, with library and other resources, including the online learning environment. All students will meet with their advisers during this week to discuss module selection and other related matters. Students with special educational needs will have the opportunity to talk to their adviser about how the college can best support their needs. All students will be able to access support services provided by the School and University.

Part-time students will undertake the same induction programme as full-time students at the beginning of their studies, and

wherever possible we will ensure that their personal advisor is the same for both years of their study, to ensure continuity of support.

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

The programme will develop a range of skills and expertise including:

- presentation and groups working skills
- Clear communication, both written and oral
- Research and analysis skills
- Empirical knowledge of areas of contemporary international public policy
- An appreciation of the complexity of policy-making at the international level

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Alexander Foster

Person responsible for management of programme:

Dr Patrick Diamond

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:

2 Feb 2021

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: