

Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	Masters of Arts in International Political Economy
Name of interim award(s):	PgCert, PgDip
Duration of study / period of registration:	12 months (FT), 24 months (PT)
Queen Mary programme code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	Politics and International Relations
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:

N/A

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

N/A

Programme outline

In today's world, it is increasingly apparent that one cannot understand either politics or economics in isolation from each other, and that there is a need for greater understanding of the relationship between the two. This is clear in the context of debates around globalisation, the relationship between states and markets, the 2008 global financial crisis and its (ongoing) aftermath, the environmental crisis, and in debates around inequality and poverty. Standard distinctions between state and market, global and local, the international and the national, limit our capacity to engage creatively with such a world.

In response, this MA Programme teaches an interdisciplinary approach to (world) politics, that works across Political Science, International Relations and other social science disciplines including Economics. It aims at training new knowledge creators who are confident in working across disciplinary boundaries to engage major challenges of today in imaginative ways. The programme offers hands-on training in the development of the necessary conceptual and methodological tools in International Political Economy that facilitate thinking outside the box when addressing contemporary concerns in world politics.

International political economy is important and the programme will take an explicitly international approach, and Queen Mary has particular strength in IR/IPE with particular reference to the Global South, as well as IPE approaches to Europe.

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We will focus on debates in Political Economy and then apply them to the 'international'/global and will focus on the classics, and then apply them to the international/global, including, as a central component, the Global South. The programme will investigate rational choice approaches, historical, institutional and critical approaches. We will draw heavily on Smith, Ricardo, Marx, neo-classical approaches, Keynes, Hayek, Polanyi, and Minsky as well as current approaches informed by cultural political economy, feminism, postcolonialism and dependency theory. We will thus provide a fully rounded approach to political economy and look at ways in which these approaches help us to understand current issues in international politics, such as global inequality and poverty, trade, finance, international institutions, economic crises, and anti-systemic movements of the left and right.

Aims of the programme

The aims are:

- Teach students conceptual and methodological tools in International Political Economy
- Train students in developing interdisciplinary ways of working
- - Provide students with substantive knowledge about contemporary challenges in world politics, including changing social relations and transformations of social and political orders.
- Develop a range of transferable skills that support working in both individually and collectively in order to be analytically precise and develop an advanced proficiency in synthesising various insights into a coherent message.
- Provide research training through an advanced taught programme that supports students who seek to enter policy and research officer jobs in think tanks, financial institutions, social movements and NGOs, international organisations, and government departments and further postgraduate work.

The programme and its aims have been designed following the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Politics and International Relations.

What will you be expected to achieve?

On successful completion of the programme, students will

- have a strong grounding in Political Economy and the ability to apply different perspectives to understanding world politics
- have a clear understanding of International Political Economy as a problem-driven and critical interdisciplinary approach to world politics
- the ability to employ critical thinking and judgement to analyse and develop ways of addressing challenges in world politics
- the ability to work successfully in individual and collaborative settings

Academic Content:

A 1	become familiar with the history of International Political Economy and the terminologies and approaches associated with it
A 2	develop a specialised, in-depth knowledge of debates in Political Economy and how they engage critically with understandings of the political, social and international
A 3	gain an advanced understanding of the nature and value of interdisciplinary knowledge and methods of doing interdisciplinary research
A 4	provide a critical understanding of some of the major matters of concern in the international/global order and the challenges they pose in terms of implementation and outcome

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	critically analyse and constructively engage with existing theoretical frameworks
B 2	develop skills in developing individual projects and working in collaborative environments

B 3	gain the ability to communicate disciplinary ideas to others in a clear, coherent and persuasive fashion
B 4	develop systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of approaches, concepts and methods associated with International Political Economy

Attributes:	
C 1	By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and critically evaluate appropriate information in specific contexts in a self-directed way, and reflect on how this might be used and adapted to different contexts
C 2	Students will have gained an enhanced capacity to work independently and in groups, demonstrating clarity, initiative, self-organisation and time management
C 3	Students will have gained an understanding of different contexts of knowledge production, through for example consideration of the particular time when classic writers produced their work, and the extent to which these might be applied to contemporary settings

How will you learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with SPIR's Education Strategy and statement of educational principles, which support excellent, inclusive and innovative teaching practice aimed at fostering independent learning and critical thinking in our students. Our strategy is informed by QMUL's 2030 strategy.

Teaching takes a number of forms:

- lectures
- seminars
- workshops
- individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- individual feedback on written work.

Learning is supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed module information shared on QMPlus
- The provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- Appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- Use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, QMPlus and online reading lists
- Encouraging active learning by supporting students in seminar discussions and independent research
- Some research methods training as part of the dissertation module

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include: written coursework; examinations; presentations; and the dissertation.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

<p>THE FULL-TIME PROGRAMME IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS</p> <p>Term 1: Compulsory -Existing module: POLM059 - Approaches to Political Economy (30 credits) Optional module: - 30 credits from the optional modules list</p> <p>Term 2: Compulsory - New module: POLMxxx Current Debates in International Political Economy Optional - 30 credits from optional modules list</p> <p>Term 3: - POLM017 - MA Dissertation/Project in Political Economy (60 credits)</p> <p>THE PART-TIME PROGRAMME IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>- Year 1 Term 1: POLM059 - Approaches to Political Economy (30 credits) - Year 1 Term 2: new module POLMXXX Current Debates in International Political Economy - Year 2 Term 1: 30 credits from the optional modules list (30 credits) - Year 2 Term 2: 30 credits from optional module list (30 credits) - Year 2 Term 3: POLM017 - MA Dissertation/Project in Political Economy (60 credits)</p> <p>INDICATIVE LIST OF OPTIONAL MODULES: - a selection of modules from the Master modules offered in SPIR</p> <p>Indicative list of optional modules offered by SPIR: POLM026 - Globalisation and the international political economy of development POLM040 - Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy POLM054 - War and international security POLM056 - Life, Death and Money: Welfare States in Theory and Practice POLM060 - Latin America in the Modern World POLM081 - International Relations of the Middle East POLM095 - International migration policy POLM099 - International organizations POLM086 - Theories and Concepts in Public Policy POLM103 - Governing the European Union</p>

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Approaches to Political Economy	POLM059	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Current Debates in International Political Economy	POLMXXX	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Elective module from annual list of electives		30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Elective module from current list of electives		30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation	POLM017	60	7	Core	1	Semester 3

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Approaches to Political Economy	POLM059	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Current Debates in International Political Economy	POLMXXX	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Elective list from annual list of modules		30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Elective module from annual list of electives		30	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
Dissertation	POLM017	60	7	Core	2	Semester 3

What are the entry requirements?

2.1 or above in UG degree in a relevant social science or humanities discipline (for example Politics, Sociology, International Relations, Human Geography, History, Anthropology, Philosophy, Law, Literature).

Language requirements if first language is not English:

IELTS Academic: 7.0 overall including 6.0 in Writing, 6.0 in Reading, 6.0 in Listening and 6.0 in Speaking.

TOEFL: 100 overall including 21 in Writing, 19 in Reading, 18 in Listening and 21 in Speaking.

PTE Academic: 76 overall including 65 in Writing, and 65 in Reading, 65 in Listening and 65 in Speaking.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The programme is monitored through the Student Voice Committee (SVC), with student representatives, chaired by the Academic Student Experience Lead, and the Education Committee (EC) chaired by the Director of Education (DoE). Issues arising from student evaluations are fed into the Education Committee. External examiners oversee assessment and marking procedures; this is handled by the Chair of Exams. The programme is evaluated through the Programme Review process.

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes 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. Student Voice Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates an Education Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Education 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 the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership and consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. Programme Review is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery. Students' views are considered via the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

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

N/A

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

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)

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- 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 is primarily aimed at providing advanced skills training and knowledge preparing students for jobs aimed at individual and collaborative knowledge creation in academic institutions, financial institutions, think tanks, NGOs, and civil service among others. However, both the subject specific knowledge and transferable skills prepare students for a wide range of employment opportunities, including careers in the civil service, journalism, social work, local, national and international governance and third-sector organisations.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Professor Ray Kiely/Helen Murray

Person responsible for management of programme:

Professor Ray Kiely

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:

23 October 2024

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: