



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	Master of Arts (MA) in International Political Sociology
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	12 months (FT); 24 months (PT)
Queen Mary programme code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	
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:

Department of Law

School of History

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

In today's world, it is increasingly apparent that humans, animals, plants and geological and atmospheric processes are intimately entangled, that people are highly mobile and challenging borders and boundaries, that the local and the global are no longer easily separated. Classical distinctions between state and society, human and nature, the international and the national, limit our capacity to engage creatively with such a world.

In response, this MA Programme teaches a transversal approach to world politics. The programme delivers a training in International Political Sociology as a distinctive transdisciplinary approach that works across Political Science, International Relations and Sociology. It aims at training new knowledge creators who are confident in working across disciplinary boundaries to engage major challenges of today in imaginative ways. One of its major purposes is to go beyond critique and embrace the possibilities and creativity of life in an age that is focused on catastrophes, apocalyptic imaginations, and the continuous narration of major crises.

The programme offers hands-on training in transdisciplinary ways of doing research and the development of the necessary conceptual and methodological tools in International Political Sociology that facilitate thinking outside the box when addressing contemporary concerns in world politics.

Aims of the programme

The aims are:

- Teach students conceptual and methodological tools in International Political Sociology that allow them to become innovative knowledge creators who can think outside the box when addressing contemporary issues of concern in world politics
- Train students in developing transdisciplinary ways of working
- Provide students with the skills to comfortably lead problem-driven collaborations
- Provide students with substantive knowledge about contemporary challenges in world politics
- Develop a range of transferable skills that support working in group and that hone an ability to be analytically precise and a 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, social movements and NGOs, international organisations, and government departments as well as PhD programmes.

What will you be expected to achieve?

On successful completion of the programme, students will

- have a clear understanding of International Political Sociology as a transversal and transdisciplinary approach to world politics
- the ability to understand the value and limits of transdisciplinary knowledge production
- the ability to employ critical thinking and judgement
- be comfortable with creating new conceptual tools and agile ways of developing knowledge that go beyond the instituted repertoires in their work environment
- the ability to set up and successfully execute individual and collaborative research projects

Academic Content:

A 1	become familiar with the history of International Political Sociology and the terminologies and approaches associated with it
A 2	develop a clear understanding of debates in International Political Sociology and how they engage the political, social and international
A 3	gain an advanced understanding of the nature and value of transdisciplinary knowledge and methods of doing transdisciplinary research
A 4	develop an understanding of some of the major matters of concern in the contemporary world and challenges they pose for social sciences

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	become skilled in critical but constructive engagement with existing knowledge frameworks
B 2	develop skills in organising collaborative methods of working
B 3	gain the ability to communicate disciplinary ideas to others in a clear, coherent and persuasive fashion
B 4	gain an appreciation of and capacity for creativity in concept development and methods of producing knowledge
B 5	develop systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of approaches, concepts and methods associated with International Political Sociology
B 6	gain the ability to design and execute individual and collaborative knowledge projects

Attributes:	
C 1	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	Work independently and in group, demonstrating clarity, initiative, self organisation and time management
C 3	gain an understanding of different contexts of knowledge production (e.g. difference between academic institutions, think tanks and NGOs as centres of knowledge creation and circulation)

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
- Research methods training

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 final-year 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.

THE FULL-TIME PROGRAMME IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS

Term 1:

Compulsory

-New module: Advanced introduction to International Political Sociology (30 credits)

Programme Title: MA in International Political Sociology

Optional module:

- 30 credits from the optional modules list

Term 2:

Compulsory

- New module: Doing transdisciplinary research (30 credits)

Optional

- 30 credits from optional modules list

Term3:

- MA Dissertation/Project in International Political Sociology (60 credits)

THE PART-TIME PROGRAMME IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

- Year 1 Term 1: New module: Advanced introduction to International Political Sociology (30 credits)

- Year 1 Term 2: New module: Doing transdisciplinary research (30 credits)

- Year 2 Term 1: 30 credits from the optional modules list

- Year 2 Term 2: 30 credits from the optional modules list

- Year 2 Term 3: MA Dissertation/Project in International Political Sociology (60 credits)

NOTE: Both FT and PT students will have the option to take 30 credits of the optional modules from the Department of Law or the School of History to strengthen their transdisciplinary skills.

INDICATIVE LIST OF OPTIONAL MODULES:

a selection of modules from the Master modules offered in SPIR and at other Schools that are relevant for International Political Sociology

Indicative list of optional modules offered by SPIR:

POLM026 - Globalisation and the international political economy of development

POLM054 - War and international security

POLM095 - International migration policy

POLM098 - Global politics of infrastructures: race, inequality and conflict

POLM099 - International organizations

The list below is an indicative list of modules. The details about which modules exactly and possible caps on places will be specified annually in collaboration with the Schools.

Indicative list of optional modules offered by other Schools:

HST7706 - The black radical tradition (History)

HST7708 - Nationalism, Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism in Political Thought, Nineteenth-Twentieth Centuries (History)

HST7703 - Capitalism and Political Thought (History)

HST7710 - Theories of Empire: from Enlightenment to Liberalism (History)

SOLM070 - International Human Rights Law: Law, Practice and Institutions (Law)

SOLM173 - Ethics of migration and asylum (Law)

SOLM175 - Terrorism, migration and human rights (Law)

SOLM240 - Artificial intelligence, human rights and migration (Law)

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Advanced introduction to international political sociology	POLM102	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Doing transdisciplinary research	TBC	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Optional module to be selected from annual list of electives	TBC	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Optional module to be selected from annual list of electives	TBC	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation	POLM017	60	7	Core	1	Semester 3

What are the entry requirements?

High upper second class honours degree or above (65+ equivalent) in Politics, Sociology, International Relations, Geography, Anthropology, Law or a related discipline in the social sciences.

High upper second class honours degree or above (65+ equivalent) in the Humanities.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? 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.

All schools operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the 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)
- 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, 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:	Jef Huysmans
Person responsible for management of programme:	Jef Huysmans
Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:	22 Mar 2024
Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:	