Queen Mary
University of London

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 Research (MRes) in Public Policy
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 year full-time; 2 years part-time
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:

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

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

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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:	
A1	Demonstrate knowledge of the competing conceptions of nationality and decision-making that inform work in public policy and public administration
A2	Understand the political and organisational world within which efforts are made to influence and control public policy
A3	Relate debates concerning the nature of rationality to the interpretation of social science data

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B1	Articulate, both orally and in writing, a theoretical account and critique of different approaches in political theory and in the study of global politics
B2	Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate methodologies in political theory and in the study of global politics and undertake a piece of extended, independent research

Attributes:	
C1	Construct and implement a research proposal within the discipline of political science
C2	Display competence in the use of both qualitative and quantitative research techniques in the social sciences
C3	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

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How will you be assessed?

Students will be assessed by research essays, presentations and a 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 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

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation	POLM017	60	7	Core	1	Semester 3
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

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 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 experience surveys.

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

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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

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, 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:	Burcu Biltekin

Person responsible for management of programme:	Chris Phillips

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:	10 Jan 2025

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:	

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