

Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme Leading to: MA in Intelligence and Security Studies



Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2022

Version No.	Date	Notes – QA USE ONLY	QA
1	August 2022	Programme specification for 2022-23 created	NPB

Postgraduate Taught Programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home College/Department/Division	College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences/ Dept. of Social and Political Sciences/Politics and History
4. Contributing College/Department/Division	N/A
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	MA Intelligence and Security Studies FHEQ level7
7. Programme title	MA Intelligence and Security Studies
8. Programme type (Single honours/joint)	
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	12 months full-time, 24 months part-time
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	Normal length of programmes plus two years up to a maximum of five years.
11. Variation(s) to September start	N/A
12. Modes of study	Full-time and Part-time
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Intelligence and Security Studies FHEQ Level 7 Postgraduate Certificate in Intelligence and Security Studies FHEQ Level 7
15. UCAS Code	
16. JACS Code	L290
17. Route Code	L900PINSSTD
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	<p>QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education which includes the English Framework for Higher Education Qualifications within Part A on Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards.</p> <p>Most Recent QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: there are currently no relevant subject benchmark statements.</p> <p>Brunel 2030 Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the Managing Higher Education Provision with Others page.</p>
19. Admission Requirements	<p>Details of PGT entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website.</p> <p>Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages.</p>
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	N/A

21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 3. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 3 must be stated here and approved by Senate.	N/A
22. Further information about the programme is available from:	http://www.brunel.ac.uk/cbass/politics-history-law/politics/research-and-postgraduate-programmes

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To provide students with a systematic and critical understanding of the role national intelligence institutions and their products have in the context of contemporary international history and politics.
- To provide students with a systematic understanding of the role of intelligence policy and intelligence operations in national strategy and decision-making.
- To provide students with a systematic understanding of ethical and accountability issues in national security information collection and management.
- To provide general training in policy-oriented research and analytical skills

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K) cognitive (thinking) skills (C) and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

FHEQ Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills and attributes)	Learning Outcome	Masters Award Only	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
7						
7	K	A systematic understanding of issues surrounding intelligence, information collection and analysis.				All modules
7	K	A systematic knowledge of intelligence history and its impact on international affairs and national security policy since 1939.		PP5800	PP5700	PP5577
7	K	A systematic understanding of general conceptual and strategic issues in national and international intelligence policy-making since 1945.		PP5800	PP5700	PP5577
7	K	A systematic understanding of associated writing and drafting skills.		PP5800	PP5700	PP5605, PP5579 (PP5577)
7	C	Ability to extend and develop their analytical, evaluative, and critical capacities.				All modules
7	C	A capacity to reflect on their own learning and intellectual development, making use of constructive feedback.		PP5800	PP5700	PP5577, PP5605, PP5579
7	C	A capacity to reflect on how their own perceptions form and evolve in individual and				PP5700, PP5577,

		collective evaluative and analytical processes.				PP5605, PP5579
7	C	An ability to evaluate, collate and integrate evidence from often profoundly differing and sometimes conflicting sources.				All modules
7	C	An ability to relate the practical considerations of policy-making to academic material.		PP5800	PP5700	PP5577, PP5605, PP5579
7	S	Develop skills in the communication of concepts and arguments.				All modules
7	S	Develop transferable skills in writing, discussion, analysis, and independent judgement.		PP5800	PP5700	PP5577, PP5605, PP5579
7	S	Able to work independently, demonstrating initiative and the ability to organise their time and work.				All modules
7	S	An ability to contribute to a collective assessment and decision-making process.				PP5579
7	S	Understand of the importance of, and ability to use, communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information.		PP5800	PP5700	PP5577, PP5605, PP5579
7	S	Develop basic skills pertinent to national security policy management and decision-making.				All modules
7	S	Ability to produce a substantial piece of research pertaining Intelligence and Security studies	X			PP5520

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

Compulsory knowledge of the general issues in intelligence history, management and policy are acquired by means of lectures and other tutor-led activities, particularly during the first semester of the course.

In order to ensure student progression towards independent research, two courses out of four will be taught primarily by supervised student-driven activities. The first will be a series of intelligence and policy case studies year-long through PP5577 (Intelligence History & Case Studies), the second addressing analytical methods and skills will be centred on preparation for and execution of an Analytical Simulation Exercise (ASE) in the second term of PP5579 (Threats).

PP5578 (Analysis) and the first term of PP5579 (Threats) make use of progressive, iterative writing assignments to develop the argumentative and drafting skills of students.

Cognitive skills described are generally developed concurrently with knowledge and understanding, through the medium of the teaching and learning programme outlined above and expanded on below. Each module, however taught and assessed, entails the deployment of the full range of the skills identified. Seminars and feedback on coursework (for which there is a standard pro-forma) provide formal mechanisms for students to reflect on their own learning and intellectual development, and make use of constructive feedback.

A variety of teaching methods and strategies imparts "other skills and attributes". Seminars, case study discussions and the Annual Simulation assist in the development of "skills in the communication of concepts and arguments", "transferable skills in writing, discussion and analysis" and the ability to "work independently, demonstrating initiative and the ability to organise their time and work". The course programme overall develops basic skills pertinent to national security policy management and decision-making.

A Master's dissertation of 15-20,000 words completes the programme. The dissertation will be based on independent research by the student supervised by a member of the Brunel Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies, or other member of the University lecturing staff with relevant expertise.

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated

- (i) All 30-credit modules will have a minimum of 2 assessments.
- (ii) Two modules (PP5576, PP5577) will have two essays (one per term) with the addition of in-class seminar delivery notes to provide context to summative assessment of presentational skills.
- (iii) PP5578 will contain 7 short writing assignments in order to develop student skills in critical and evaluative reading and in drafting and analysis.
- (iv) Assessment in PP5579 begin with an incremental series of writing tasks which will increase in length, allowing the development of drafting skills and increasing analytical depth moving up the scale of description-explanation-evaluation-prediction.
- (v) The BASE in term 2 of PP5579 will consist of an initial individual position paper, contribution to a joint assessment report and an after-action report on the simulation
- (vi) Assessment of the dissertation will be as per University MA dissertation conventions.

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These will be listed in the left hand column;
- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an 'option range'. These will be listed in the right hand column;
- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade C- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

Where students are expected to pass the block at C- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.

e.g. AB5500 Project (40)

Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at C- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core

e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)

Core: 1 & 4

Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:

e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)

Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade C- or better, but must D- or better in order to be eligible for the final award.

FHEQ Level 5

For programmes with a part-time mode of study, please indicate which year of study each module will normally take place in using a superscript ¹ or ².

Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit

Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits

Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume	Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume
<p>PP5800⁽¹⁾ Intelligence Concepts, Issues and Institutions</p> <p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All modules are 30 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>PP5520⁽²⁾ Intelligence and Security Studies Dissertation (60 credits) Core: Block</p> <p>PP5577⁽¹⁾ Intelligence History: Failure and Success PP5579⁽²⁾ Contemporary Threats and Analytical Methodology</p> <p>PP5623⁽¹⁾ Intelligence Concepts, Issues and Institutions</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All modules are 30 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>Select 30 credits:</p> <p>PP5604⁽²⁾ Counterintelligence and Security</p> <p>PP5605⁽²⁾ Intelligence Analysis Foundations, Methods and Applications</p>
<p>FHEQ Level 5 Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 3</p> <p>PGDip may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation (PP5520) for modular/assessment blocks in the taught part of the programme.</p>	

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.