

Programme Specification for Programme Leading to: MA International Relations MA International Relations (with Professional Practice)

Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2019

Version No.	Date	Notes – QA USE ONLY	QA
1	May 2019	Programme specification for 2019/20 created. PX5609 removed. PP5611 added FHEQ references updated Quality Code references updated HECoS replaces JACS code	BJR

Masters 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	College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences/ Dept. of Social and Political Sciences/Politics and History College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences/Brunel Law School/Brunel Law School
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	Master of Arts FHEQ7
7. Programme title	International Relations International Relations with professional practice (placement pathway)
8. N/A	
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	12 months (FT) 24 months (PT); 15 months (FT) 30 months (PT) (MA with professional practice)
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	(FT)/(PT)
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles	Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations FHEQ Level 7 Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations FHEQ Level 7
15. N/A	N/A
16. HECoS Code	100490
17. Route Code	L250PINTRELA
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	UK Quality Code for Higher Education Most Recent QAA Subject Benchmark Statement : there are currently no relevant subject benchmark statements. Brunel 2030 Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the ' Managing Higher Education Provision with Others ' page.
19. Admission Requirements	Details of entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website. Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages.

20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	Students embarking upon the placement will receive appropriate preparatory and general support, guidance and supervision from the course director and the Professional Development Centre.
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 understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, informed by developments at the forefront of the field of International Relations.
- Specifically, the fundamental importance of international relations theory in understanding and addressing the constitutive 'puzzles' the subject area has sought to address and a systematic knowledge of at least one of the discipline's recognised sub-fields (International Security and/or International Political Economy). Besides this, to provide students with a systematic knowledge of international relations across a range of regional and/or thematic topic areas.
- To provide students with a comprehensive and practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.
- To develop students' research skills to enable them to carry out independent research at postgraduate level.
- To improve students' analytical reasoning skills, both written and spoken.
- To develop a knowledge base and range of cognitive, analytical, and transferable skills that may be appropriate in a range of careers in the public, private and civil society sectors and for undertaking a further course of academic study.
- For students on the placement pathway, the opportunity to experience professional work-based activity with an organisation with an international dimension to its mission.

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						
	K	Demonstrated a systematic knowledge and critical awareness of current problems and issues in International Relations				All modules
	K	Demonstrated a systematic knowledge and critical awareness of the main theoretical challenges and approaches within the discipline and knowledge of at least one of the key sub-fields of 'international security' and/or 'international political economy'.				PP5563; PP5603; PP5606
	K	Demonstrated comprehensive knowledge and application of the methods used in IR research				All modules but particularly PP5563, PP5608

	C	Demonstrated an ability to deal with complex issues, make sound judgements in the absence of perfect information, and to communicate findings.				All modules
	C	Communicate concepts and arguments				All modules
	C	Demonstrated the ability to evaluate critically current research in the field of IR and to evaluate and critique the main methodological approaches used.				PP5608 Dissertation and Research skills in International Relations All modules, but especially PP5563,
	S	Work independently, demonstrating initiative and the ability to organise their time and work				All modules but especially PP5608
	S	Use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information				All modules
	S	Write, discuss, analyse and form independent judgement as transferable skills				All modules
	K & C	Production of a substantial piece of research pertaining to International Relations at MA level	X			PP5608

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

(K) Knowledge and understanding of the subject area are learned/taught through lectures, seminars, group discussion, independent guided study, feedback, and a range of specialist exercises and activities as detailed below.

(C) Cognitive (thinking) skills above are developed through guided class-room discussion and individual classroom engagement with students, feedback on assignments, and dissertation supervision such as to aid student appreciation and inculcation of processes of knowledge validation and development within the field.

(S) Other (transferable) skills are embedded in the nature of the preparatory, classroom and assessment activities required for successful completion of the programme. Certain modules also develop specific transferable skills such as oral presentation skills (culture and imperialism), documentary analysis (United States in world affairs), and threat assessment (Middle East Security).

Students taking the placement pathway will, besides gaining work-based experience, better understand the relationship between academic and work-based knowledge and develop appropriate generic transferable skills associated with professional 'project-based' activities.

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

Systematic knowledge and understanding of the field and sub-fields of International Relations and how knowledge is validated and developed within the discipline is tested through a range of assessment methods including written exam and coursework.

These methods also test cognitive skills in that they require critical, evidence-based engagement with the subject. The dissertation is particularly significant in this regard.

	<p>Other skills such as effective and persuasive written communication, ability to work independently and make informed judgements/analyses are also tested through coursework and exam assessments.</p> <p>Students on the placement pathway will be assessed through a 20 minute oral presentation.</p>
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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 7

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

Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits
<p>PP5563 Evolution of International Relations (30 credits) (Part-time: Year 1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>PP5608 Dissertation and Research skills in International Relations (60 credits) Core: Block (Part-time: Year 1 and 2)</p> <p>For Students on the Placement Pathway: PP5610 IR MA professional practice module (0 credits)</p>	<p>Select at least one of the following:</p> <p>PP5603 International Security (30 credits)</p> <p>PP5606 International Political Economy (30 credits)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>And select up to 60 credits from the following (to a total of 180 credits taken overall including PP5608):</p> <p>PP5607 China and Contemporary Geopolitics (15 credits)</p> <p>PP5611 International Development</p> <p>PP5609 Middle East Security (15 credits)</p> <p>PX5606 Democracy and Intervention (15 credits)</p> <p>LX5553 The Migrant and the Law (15 credits)</p>

FHEQ Level 7 Progression and Award Requirements

The minimum time period that each student should be on work placement is 6 weeks with a maximum of 12 weeks, albeit this may not necessarily entail a full-working week commitment. The Placement will take place between the end of the taught part of the programme and prior to submission of the dissertation.

As per [Senate Regulation 3](#)

PGDip may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation (PP5500) for modular/assessment blocks in the taught part of the programme.

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 module outlines and other programme and module information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a major modification occurs, and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.