ACADEMIC POLICY & QUALITY OFFICE

ASSESSMENT

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

MA / PG Dip / PG Cert in International Security

Managed by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

delivered by the Department of Social Sciences

Date approved:	
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2020

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**
January 2020	**Type A changes**	**Section 4.1 updated to reflect the following:** 1. **Change of module title: INRL7006 Global Civil Society to 'Global Civil Society and Social Movements'** 2. **Deletion of module: INRL7007 International Energy Security**
February 2019	Minor change	Section 4.1 to be updated to reflect the following change 1. Change of module title: P23108 Production, Finance and Global Governance to be Changed to 'Capitalism, Crisis and World Order.'
09.10.2018	Section 6.1 – Entry requirements	APQO request that entry requirements are referred to by a link to the course page

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University - Gipsy Lane Campus
Language of study:	English
Final award/s:	MA
Programme title:	International Security
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	PG Diploma (PGD-INS) / PG Certificate (PGC-INS)
Brookes course code:	MA-INS / SS68
UCAS code:	N/A
JACS code:	L250
HECoS code:	100490
Mode of delivery: (Mode of Study given in brackets)	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Duration of study:	Full-time (normally 1 year, maximum 5 years) Part-time (normally 2 years, maximum 5 years)
Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	None
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	N/A
Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

Security has always been a key theme in the study of 'the international'. In recent years some scholars have suggested that in the post-Cold War era we need to move beyond a focus on national and international security. This course offers both the traditional focus on the security of states and more contemporary debates centred on 'human security' in a variety of contexts. Postgraduate students on our MA in International Security explore these issues and take part in critical reflection both with each other and with members of the faculty.

There is a strong emphasis throughout the degree on gaining critical perspectives on contemporary theory and practice in international security. The aim of this course is not only to enable students to evaluate and explain contemporary issues, but also to allow them to gain insights into the nature, development, and history of contemporary theoretical perspectives. The course also aims to provide a sound grounding in relevant research methods. The degree begins with a common set of modules that are taught in Semester 1. The optional modules in Semester 2 and the dissertation module then allow students to specialise in discreet aspects of international security and international relations. The course as a whole enables students to develop core skills in research, information literacy and life-long learning habits that are relevant to a diverse range of career opportunities. Students also get the opportunity to enjoy a four-day study trip to Brussels and The Hague. This gives them first-hand experience of how important international institutions, such as the EU and International Criminal Court work.

Tutors on the course teach optional modules which are directly derived from their own research, while the compulsory modules reflect the state-of-the-art in methodological and theoretical thinking in the field. As a postgraduate programme, the integration between research and teaching is a crucial part of the quality of the experience. The teaching team will often use their refereed publications in the teaching process and encourage students to participate in their respective research interests. Teaching staff are active members of the Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society and their research profiles can be viewed at http://www.social-sciences.brookes.ac.uk/People/Academic/.

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

a. demonstrate a critical understanding of the major theoretical debates in the contemporary study of international security;
b. demonstrate understanding of the history of the international system;
c. analyse and engage with state-of-the-art academic literature in the field of International Relations with a specific focus on international security;

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

a. conduct individual research with a critical awareness of current debates within the study of international security;
b. demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of an area of particular interest in international security (MA only);
c. understand and apply relevant social science epistemology and methodology (MA and PG Dip only);
d. formulate, design and conduct an extended piece of project research with a critical awareness of relevant debates within the discipline (MA only).

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

a. manage workloads effectively and set personal goals;
b. demonstrate the skills of reflective independent learning;
c. make appropriate decisions in communicating effectively within diverse settings.

3.4 Digital and information literacy

    a. communicate arguments orally and on paper;
    b. collect, collate and present material from a variety of sources;
    c. develop research skills with information technology.

3.5 Active citizenship

    a. apply the understanding as defined by programme outcomes 3.1a and 3.1b to contemporary real world cases and issues of international security;
    b. critically engage with different understandings of the 'global' and the 'local' and how they relate to the concept of citizenship;
    c. demonstrate a critical understanding of how the study of international security is often built on dominant cultural understandings of the world.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 Programme structure and requirements:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
INRL7011	Security: Beyond Bullets and Bombs	40	7	Compulsory	100:0
INRL7012	Advanced Research in International Relations	20	7	Compulsory	100:0
INRL7003	International Development	20	7	Optional	100:0
INRL7004	Global Politics and the Environment	20	7	Optional	100:0
INRL7005	Capitalism, Crisis and World Order	20	7	Optional	100:0
INRL7006	Global Civil Society and Social Movements	20	7	Optional	100:0
INRL7008	Violence and Peacebuilding	20	7	Optional	100:0
INRL7009	Dilemmas of International Ethics	20	7	Optional	100:0
INRL7010	Critical Approaches to Terrorism	20	7	Optional	100:0
INRL7013	Postcolonial Perspectives: Security, Violence and Resistance	20	7	Optional	100:0
DEVP7004	Refugees: Forced Migration, Protection and Humanitarianism	20	7	Optional	100:0
SSCI7001	Independent Study	20	7	Optional	100:0
INRL7001	Dissertation	60	7	Compulsory	100:0

4.2 Progression and award requirements

To obtain the PG Certificate students must pass INRL7001 (Security: Beyond Bullets and Bombs) plus one optional module. The PG Diploma requires students to pass the PG Cert and the compulsory module INRL7012 Advanced Research in International Relations, plus two more optional modules.

To obtain an MA students have to pass the dissertation module. Students are able to devise their own dissertation topic and receive support from a supervisor to complete this 60-credit module.

4.3 Professional requirements

N/A

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching methods:

A wide diversity of teaching methods will be employed throughout the programme in order to aid the quality of learning opportunities for students' knowledge and understanding of international security. Most modules include 24 hours contact time and each 20 credits is expected to take about 200 hours of student effort in total (including contact time).

Teaching methods will include:

- ❏ staff-led lectures
- ❏ tutor/group-led seminars
- ❏ analysis of case studies
- ❏ group presentations
- ❏ individual presentations
- ❏ individual and small group tutorials

During the compulsory modules in Semester 1 tutors use a mix of both staff-led lectures combined with seminars and group discussion. These modules represent the core aspects of the study of international security. A dedicated 40-credit module provides a solid grounding in key theoretical debates within the discipline of International Relations as they relate to a range of issues related to the study of security. In Semester 2 students then choose three optional modules, which directly reflect the research interests of the teaching staff. On these modules we employ a variety of small group teaching methods to allow students to develop critical thinking and consolidate their learning from different parts of the programme.

Assessment methods:

Assessment for the programme will be conducted through a variety of assignments linked to the learning outcomes to be achieved in the course. The Postgraduate attributes are addressed throughout all teaching, learning and assessment (see below).

a) **Academic literacy** is inherent to the substantive content of all modules and is particularly addressed in *INRL7011 Security: Beyond Bullets and Bombs*, which encourages students to critically engage with a range of theoretical approaches central to the study of international security by applying them to real world issues.

b) **Research literacy** is addressed in students' independent learning and resource retrieval for all assessments. The module *INRL7012 Advanced Research in International Relations* provides dedicated training in both the philosophical and practical questions of conducting research in International Relations. The dissertation module then provides an opportunity to conduct an in-depth piece of independent research.

c) **Critical self-awareness and personal literacy** is exercised through student initiative and personal responsibility in their own learning and with all forms of assessment. This is crystallised in the dissertation module during which students are able to present and receive feedback on their proposals at the Annual Postgraduate Day.

d) **Digital and information literacy** is achieved through the full use of online resources via Moodle. Students are also expected to use the electronic library as many resources and readings for each module are only available digitally.

e) **Active citizenship** is addressed through the nature of the disciplinary remit and its benchmarks and subject matter which prescribe not only country studies, but area studies, including regionalisation, comparative analysis, inter and trans-national perspectives and attention to the global frame of reference. Students are encouraged to critically reflect on both different

understandings of what it means to be a citizen in a globalising world and the dominant cultural underpinnings of the study of international security.

Assignments will include essays, presentations, projects, reports and a dissertation (MA only). Assignments will be spread over the year to provide constant feedback and assessment. The teaching team are committed to the Brookes Assessment and Feedback Policy and will return coursework within a maximum of 3 weeks (during semester time) from the time when it was handed in.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The MA International Security course entry requirements, as well as English language requirements are listed on the webpage (https://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/ma-international-security/) under section 'How to apply / Entry requirements'.

The University's general minimum postgraduate entry requirements are listed here:

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/postgraduate-courses/

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

N/A

6.3 JOB ROLE/EMPLOYER PROFILE (DEGREE AND HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS)

N/A

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Students with a postgraduate award in International Security will be well-suited to careers in a variety of professions, including government, non-governmental organisations, charity organisations, civil service, international organisations, law and the trade unions.

In addition to the general support offered by the central Careers Service, students have the opportunity to attend a dedicated 'careers workshop' for students on the course, run by a members of the Careers Service. This workshop enables students to explore how the course cultivates cognitive and social skills that are relevant to intellectual, professional and personal development. Alumni of the course are also involved in the workshop and they are able to share their personal experiences of how the degree has helped them in their career development.

As active researchers, tutors on the programme have a number of links with employers, in particular with civil society organisations (such as Oxfam and Rights and Accountability in Development) and the policy-making community. Researchers from outside the University are invited to our weekly seminar series run by our Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society, which students on the programme are encouraged to attend.

We also organise 'Politics in Action' seminars where guest speakers from relevant careers are invited to come and talk to us about their experiences, to help inspire students as to the range of options that are open to them. Our speakers reflect on their career progression, discuss some of the key details of their work and offer reflections on recent developments in their sector. Previously we have hosted speakers from a range of organisations including International Rescue Committee and Friends of the Earth.

Students get the opportunity to develop their presentation skills on a number of modules during the course and as part of the dissertation module they deliver an outline of their research project at the Annual Postgraduate Day, held in May/June each year. This event also includes a lecture from a guest speaker, from outside the University.

The course also includes a four-day study trip to Brussels and The Hague. This gives students first-hand experience of how important international institutions, such as the EU and International Criminal Court, work.