

**ACADEMIC POLICY & QUALITY OFFICE**

**ASSESS**

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

for the award of

**MA / PG Dip / PG Cert in International Relations**

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
February 2020	Type A change	Section 4.1 to be updated to reflect the following changes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change of module title: INRL7006 Global Civil Society to 'Global Civil Society and Social Movements'</li> <li>2. Deletion of module: INRL7007 International Energy Security</li> </ol>
February 2019	Minor change	Section 4.1 to be updated to reflect the following change <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change of module title: P23108 Production, Finance and Global Governance to be Changed to 'Capitalism, Crisis and World Order.'</li> </ol>

09.10.2018	Section 6.1 – Entry requirements	APQO request that entry requirements are referred to by a link to the course page
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## **SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Awarding body:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Teaching institution and location:</b>	Oxford Brookes University - Gipsy Lane Campus
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>Final award:</b>	MA
<b>Programme title:</b>	International Relations
<b>Interim exit awards and award titles available:</b>	PG Diploma (PGD-RL(OBO)) / PG Certificate (PGC-RL(OBO))
<b>Brookes course code:</b>	MA-RL (OBO) / SS67
<b>UCAS code:</b>	N/A
<b>JACS code:</b>	L250
<b>HECoS code:</b>	100490
<b>Mode of delivery:</b>	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
<b>Mode/s and duration of study:</b>	Full-time (normally 1 year, maximum 5 years) Part-time (normally 2 years, maximum 5 years)
<b>QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:</b>	None
<b>Professional accreditation attached to the programme:</b>	N/A
<b>University Regulations:</b>	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/</a>



## **SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?**

These are interesting times for international relations: issues such as globalisation, environmental degradation, poverty and deprivation, international conflict, the rise of religious fundamentalism, the future of democracy - among many others - challenge us to understand trends taking place in modern society. International Relations is quintessentially concerned with these issues. This postgraduate degree enables students to increase their understanding of contemporary issues in a global context.

There is a strong emphasis throughout the degree on gaining critical perspectives on contemporary theory and practice in international relations. The aim of this course is not only to enable students to evaluate and explain contemporary issues in international relations, but also 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 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 debates in contemporary International Relations theory;
- 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;
- d. demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of inter-state practices and the application of key theories and concepts in International Relations.

### **3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY**

- a. conduct individual research with a critical awareness of current debates within the discipline of International Relations;
- b. demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of an area of particular interest in International Relations (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 Relations;
- 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 International Relations as a discipline 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
INRL7001	International Relations in Theory and Practice	20	7	Compulsory	100:0
INRL7002	Global Political Economy	20	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
INRL7021	Dissertation	60	7	Compulsory	100:0

### 4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

To obtain the PG Certificate students must pass INRL7001 (International Relations in Theory and Practice), INRL7002 (Global Political Economy) 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 Relations. 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 discipline of International Relations. 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 *INRL7001 International Relations in Theory and Practice*, which encourages students to critically engage with a range of theoretical approaches central to the discipline 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 International Relations as a discipline.

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. One module (*International Relations in Theory and Practice*) includes a written exam as part of the 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 Relations course entry requirements, as well as English language requirements are listed on the webpage (<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/international-relations/>) 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)**

If applicable (please indicate if not applicable).

## **SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Students with a postgraduate award in International Relations have made successful careers in a variety of professions, including parliamentary researchers, non-governmental organisations, charity organisations, social work, management, teaching, lecturing, publishing, journalism, financial sector, advertising, government, civil service, local government, international organisations, law and the trade unions. A number of our students have also gone on to undertake research degrees.

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.

*Updated January 2018*



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.

