

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	<b>MA Energy and Environmental Change</b> The MA Energy and Environmental Change is a Masters' degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma Energy and Environmental Change Postgraduate Certificate Energy and Environmental Change
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	University of Westminster, Regent Street
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a> :	None
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	None
Date of course validation/review:	2015
Date of programme specification approval:	March 2019
Valid for cohorts:	From 2016
Course Leader:	Wojciech Ostrowski
Course URL:	<a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate</a>
Westminster Course Code:	PMPIR04F (Full-time) PMPIR04P (Part-time)
JACS code:	L240
UKPASS code:	P052342

## Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply)

## Aims of the course

The MA Energy and Environmental Change is an interdisciplinary degree that combines international relations, law, business and sustainability studies. As such it provides a comprehensive examination of energy security, energy markets and climate change from global, regional and local perspectives. The degree equips students with knowledge of key intellectual frameworks and critical issues. The course offers a holistic approach to the dynamics governing energy-transition to a low-carbon economy nexus. Students are required to complete five interconnected core modules and may select one option module.

- You are taught by staff from

School of Social Sciences

Westminster Law School

Westminster Business School

School of Architecture and Cities

- Three key points about the MA
  1. The MA is based on the assumption that the study of the transition to a low-carbon economy requires an understanding of the political, legal and economic issues associated with the fossil fuels that overwhelmingly dominate the energy mix in the majority of countries today. This requires a whole system approach which includes prevalence of fossil fuels as well as emerging renewables and related industries. In doing so the course provides a holistic picture of the global energy dynamics.
  2. The MA looks at the issue of transition from global, regional and local perspectives. The multidimensional picture provided by the MA equips students with a toolkit, which allows them to understand how larger political, legal and economic changes taking place on the global and regional levels impact the dynamics on the local level, and vice-versa.
  3. The MA's interdisciplinary approach enables students to learn about the climate change and global energy security nexus in its complexity, and highlights diverse perspectives and approaches that are key to developing a coherent understanding of these issues. The aim is to show how different academic disciplines complement each other with regard to energy issues, and why there is an actual need for these interdisciplinary approaches in the case of energy and climate change. The five interconnected core modules serve this purpose.

### **The specific aims of the course are:**

1. To examine at an advanced level the relevance of contemporary debates in international relations and political economy to issues of energy security, energy markets and climate change.
2. To enable students to acquire knowledge of energy markets (oil, gas, coal, electricity and renewables), including trading arrangements, market instruments, price formation and market efficiency.
3. To establish students' understanding of contemporary challenges in international energy law and policy and to develop their understanding of the international climate change regime.
4. To evaluate the nature of different innovation policies and their relevance for the transition to a low-carbon society.
5. To enable students to develop research skills essential for writing research essays and dissertations.
6. To develop students' analytical and general transferable skills that can be used in business and policy-making.

The core modules address these course aims as follows:

Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change (1,5,6)

Regional Dimensions of Energy Security (1,5,6)

Sustainable Energy Policy (2,5,6)

International Energy and Climate Change Law (3,5,6)

Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change (4,5,6)

### **Employment and further study opportunities**

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

## **Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

## **Knowledge and understanding**

By the end of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the relevance of contemporary debates in international relations and political economy to the study of energy security, energy markets and climate change.
2. Critically analyse and synthesise energy security dilemmas of major energy producing and consuming countries within a changing global energy landscape.
3. Critically evaluate the structure and operations of oil and gas markets.
4. Explain and analyse the effect of international environmental policy instruments on major energy markets.
5. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the international regime on climate change and its implications for energy policy.
6. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of principles of international law governing the development and use of energy resources.
7. Critically evaluate the nature of different innovation policies and their relevance for the transition to a low-carbon society.
8. Synthesise the global, regional, national and local dimensions of multilevel governance of the low-carbon transition.

The core modules address these course-learning outcomes as follows:

Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change (1,2)

Regional Dimensions of Energy Security (1,2)

Sustainable Energy Policy (3,4)

International Energy and Climate Change Law (5,6)

Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change (7,8)

## **Specific skills**

1. Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to apply a range of analytical frameworks to business problems, policy issues, case studies and other forms of assessment.
2. Students will present information and communicate effectively at all levels.
3. Students will learn independently and integrate new knowledge with previous experience and learning.

4. Students will write a final 60 credit dissertation in which they will evaluate critically the current research and advanced scholarship and deal with complex issues in a way that can be clearly understood by specialist and non-specialist audiences.

### **Key transferable skills**

The ability to:

1. Construct reasoned argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise critical judgement at an advanced level;
2. Manage and deliver well-structured, coherently argued, timely and clearly presented oral and written reports and presentations at an advanced level;
3. Collaborate with others to achieve common goals;
4. Reflect on your own learning and make use of constructive feedback;
5. Manage your own further learning self-critically;
6. Communicate clearly in writing and other media to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
7. Conduct case study analysis;
8. Present effective arguments while acknowledging the importance of alternative perspectives.

### **Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

1. Teaching and learning methods will include lectures, seminars, case studies, presentations from guest speakers and energy sector stakeholders. The examination of both academic and current professional reports will be used to challenge students' assumptions and to encourage them to bring their own experience to the learning process when appropriate. Students will learn how to work independently as well as in a group environment to solve problems and to deliver solutions to a wide range of issues. Module sessions will require students to demonstrate their ability to apply a range of analytical frameworks to problems, policy issues, case studies, presentations and team-based activities. Students will learn how to solve complex problems in a systematic way, informed by relevant knowledge, tools and techniques. The contents of modules will be regularly updated in order to keep abreast with latest developments within the energy sector and climate change debates.
2. Guest speakers are an integral part of the MA course. For this reason the second half of the 'Sustainable Energy Policy module has a practical focus with sessions led by guest speakers drawn from a range of energy companies, renewables firms and policy 'think-tanks'. These sessions take the form of short participative workshops exploring case studies on energy strategy and sustainability. The other core modules, 'Regional Dimensions of Energy Security' and 'International Energy and

Climate Change Law' also have a guest speaker component with guest speakers leading one or more sessions. More information about guest speakers and their professional affiliations will be available on the course webpage.

Invited guest speakers coming from academia, industry and policy making world will also deliver occasional lectures outside the usual teaching hours which students are expected to attend. More information about those special events will be available on the course webpage and will be circulated via e-mail.

3. The assessment, depending on the module, will be in the form of a policy brief, written report, academic essay or oral presentation.

The list below represents the general criteria of assessment for work on the MA. Fulfilment of these criteria will be expected in all work, both written and orally presented.

Ability to:

- comprehend the central issue and the instructions
- conduct a literature review
- identify appropriate theoretical perspectives
- identify relevant methodological issues and their currency
- create and assemble relevant material
- synthesize material
- reflect critically, creatively and analytically
- build a coherent body of work
- communicate in good English
- use scholarly techniques of referencing

The grading of assessments will be based on the following broad criteria:

- the extent to which relevant material has been used
  - understanding of the methodological issues
  - breadth of knowledge of relevant literature and practice
  - depth of analysis and background research
  - evidence of critical and reflective thought
  - degree of coherence and structural clarity
  - command of English
  - use of the apparatus of scholarly referencing
4. Students will be working on their dissertations throughout the duration of the entire course. In semester 1 and 2 the MA core staff will run a series of joint and area specific workshops, and methods sessions. Students will be expected to submit the dissertation abstract and the dissertation title by the end of the semester 1 after having discussed them with the Course Leader. The abstract and the title will be then reviewed by the MA Dissertation Committee, which will assess the viability of the proposed projects as dissertations and allocate a dissertation supervisor for every student.
  5. The MA Energy and Environmental Change is structured around three key themes:
    - Energy Security
    - Energy Markets
    - Climate Change and Environmental Policy

The students are introduced to key themes during the 'Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change' core module. The module aims at evaluating the relevance of contemporary debates in international relations and political economy to the study of energy security, energy markets and climate change. It examines the political history of the modern energy systems and the role played by states and major private and state-owned companies. In addition, it explores the role of global institutions and their impact on the interplay between energy security, energy markets and climate change on the global level.

The remaining core modules each elaborate further on the key themes as follows:

- Energy Security

The energy security theme is discussed in depth in the 'Regional Dimensions of Energy Security' module. The aim of the module is to analyse the impact that recent geo-political shifts, the rise of new players in the energy sector and technological breakthroughs have had on the energy security of key producing and consuming countries. The key themes explored in the module include the shale revolution, resource nationalism, transit routes and pipelines, security of supply and demand, price volatility, state capitalism and survival strategies of petro-states.

- Energy Markets

The 'Sustainable Energy Policy' module focuses on energy economics and, in particular, on the role of markets in driving energy policy and strategy both short and long term. The module explores a number of key themes and conceptual issues. These include: an analysis of the structure and operation of oil, gas, coal, electricity and renewables markets and issues of price discovery, carbon trading, green taxes and subsidies; the role of banks and alternative sources of financing for oil and gas projects; an exploration of approaches to modelling and forecasting the supply, demand and price of energy and energy derivatives.

- Climate Change and Environmental Policy

The 'International Energy and Climate Change Law' module is designed to introduce students to the principles of international law relevant to the development and use of energy resources. The module pays special attention to the evolving international legal framework on the mitigation of climate change, and its impact on international energy law and policy. This theme is also specifically addressed by the 'Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change' module. However, whereas the 'International Energy and Climate Change Law' module focuses on the global level, the 'Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change' focuses on a multilevel perspective. The module sets out the theoretical framework, and the international context for sustainable development, energy efficiency and climate change. The module includes analysis of key policy concerns and planning and design responses comparatively across different institutional and cultural contexts and reviews techniques for assessing the impacts of development.

- Indicative option modules

The indicative option modules offer students an opportunity to explore in greater depth an aspect of one of the key themes covered by the MA: Energy Security, Energy Markets, Climate Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society.

The Energy Security and Energy Markets themes can be further studied by choosing one of the following options:

- **Global Financial Markets**  
This module is concerned with both practical and theoretical issues related to global financial markets. It examines an array of financial instruments employed for the purpose of speculation and hedging.
- **Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration**  
The aim of this module is to provide an introduction to the study of public international arbitration between sovereign states and non-sovereign entities in the context of cross-border direct investment.
- **International Economics**  
The module is concerned with both practice and theories of international trade and finance. It focuses on such issues as classical and neo-classical trade theories, intra-industry trade, factor input mobility, trade policies, infant industry protection, economic integration, foreign investments, balance of payments, exchange rate regimes and their implications.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law**  
The module provides an understanding of the international and domestic principles relevant to human and social rights in the context of the business case for corporate social responsibility. It analyses domestic and international legal frameworks together with key industry initiatives such as the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative in oil, gas and mining and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The Climate Change and Environmental Policy theme can be further studied by choosing one of the following options:

- **Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience**  
The module aims to explore the vulnerability of people and cities to short and longer-term environmental hazards. This includes those resulting from climate change, and associated social and economic risks. It involves looking at different concepts of risk and its assessment. It will explore how to work with local communities and agencies to build urban resilience and reduce risk from natural hazards through urban design and planning.
- **Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives**  
The module explores and compares a range of approaches to analysing and evaluating governance and policy, assessing the understandings of democracy that these approaches imply. These approaches are introduced through a range of case studies relating to policy-making in contrasting national and international contexts. The module also explores the challenges of defining and delivering policy across a range of international, national and sub-national contexts, and reflects on the implications of these challenges for democracy.



## Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

### COURSE STRUCTURES

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

<b>Credit Level 7</b>			
<b>MODULE CODE</b>	<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>UK CREDIT</b>
<b>Core Modules</b>			
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Core	20
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Core	20
7LLAW019W	International Energy and Climate Change Law	Core	20
7ECON013W	Sustainable Energy Policy	Core	20
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Core	20
7PIRS028W	Dissertation and Methods	Core	60

<b>Indicative Option Modules</b>			
7FNCE016W	Global Financial Markets	Option	20
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Option	20
7LLAW008W	Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	Option	20
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives	Option	20
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7LLAW004W	Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law	Option	20

**Please note:** Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year

**COURSE STRUCTURE FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY  
MA Full-Time Mode**

<b>Core Modules Semester 1</b>			
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Core	20
7ECON013W	Sustainable Energy Policy	Core	20
<b>Core Modules Semester 2</b>			
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Core	20
7LLAW019W	International Energy and Climate Change Law	Core	20
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Core	20
7PIRS028W	Dissertation and Methods	Core	60

**One Option Module Only Taken Either in Semester 1 or 2**

<b>Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1</b>			
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Option	20
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7FNCE016W	Global Financial Markets	Option	20
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives	Option	20
7LLAW004W	Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law	Option	20
<b>Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2</b>			
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7LLAW008W	Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	Option	20

**Please note:** Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

**COURSE STRUCTURE FOR JANUARY ENTRY  
MA Full-Time Mode**

<b>Core Modules Semester 1</b>			
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Core	20
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Core	20
7LLAW019W	International Energy and Climate Change Law	Core	20
<b>Core Modules Semester 2</b>			
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Core	20
7ECON013W	Sustainable Energy Policy	Core	20
7PIRS028W	Dissertation and Methods	Core	60

**One Option Module Only Taken Either in Semester 1 or 2**

<b>Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1</b>			
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7LLAW008W	Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	Option	20
<b>Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2</b>			
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Option	20
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7FNCE016W	Global Financial Markets	Option	20
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives	Option	20
7LLAW004W	Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law	Option	20

**Please note:** Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

**COURSE STRUCTURE FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY  
MA Part-Time Mode**

<b>Core Modules Semester 1</b>			
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Core	20
7ECON013W	Sustainable Energy Policy	Core	20
<b>Core Modules Semester 2</b>			
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Core	20
7LLAW019W	International Energy and Climate Change Law	Core	20
<b>Core Modules Semester 3</b>			
7PIRS028W	Dissertation and Methods	Core	60
<b>Core Modules Semester 4</b>			
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Core	20

**One Option Module Only Taken Either in Semester 3 or 4**

<b>Indicative Option Modules: Semester 3</b>			
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Option	20
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7FNCE016W	Global Financial Markets	Option	20
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives	Option	20
7LLAW004W	Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law	Option	20
<b>Indicative Option Modules: Semester 4</b>			
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7LLAW008W	Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	Option	20

**Please note:** Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

**COURSE STRUCTURE FOR JANUARY ENTRY  
MA Part-Time Mode**

<b>Core Modules Semester 1</b>			
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Core	20
7LLAW019W	International Energy and Climate Change Law	Core	20
<b>Core Modules Semester 2</b>			
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Core	20
7ECON013W	Sustainable Energy Policy	Core	20
<b>Core Modules Semester 3</b>			
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Core	20
<b>Core Modules Semester 4</b>			
7PIRS028W	Dissertation and Methods	Core	60

**One Option Module Only Taken Either in Semester 3 or 4**

<b>Indicative Option Modules: Semester 3</b>			
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7LLAW008W	Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	Option	20
<b>Indicative Option Modules: Semester 4</b>			
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Option	20
7ECON006W	International Economics	Option	20
7FNCE016W	Global Financial Markets	Option	20
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy: International	Option	20
7LLAW004W	Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law	Option	20

**Please note:** Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

## **Academic regulations**

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations)

## **How will you be supported in your studies?**

### **Course management**

The Course is located at the Department of Politics and International Relations. The Course is directly managed by a Course Leader. Each module on the course also has a designated Module Leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery.

The course teaching team consists of staff recruited for their knowledge and professional experience in specialised areas. They are drawn from a range of academic and relevant non-academic contexts.

### **Academic Support**

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students

### **Learning Support**

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students<sup>1</sup> can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

### **Support Services**

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

## **How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?**

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2015. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a

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<sup>1</sup> Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

### **How do we act on student feedback?**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- There are also School Staff Student Exchange meetings that enable wider discussions across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey or PTES which helps us compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that you value.

**For more information about this course:** Dr Wojciech Ostrowski, MA Course Leader; Email: [w.ostrowski@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:w.ostrowski@westminster.ac.uk).

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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