

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award	MA International Relations MA International Relations and Democratic Politics MA International Relations and Security The International Relations, International Relations and Democratic Politics, and the International Relations and Security are Masters' degrees that are Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards	Postgraduate Diploma International Relations Postgraduate Certificate International Relations Postgraduate Diploma International Relations and Democratic Politics Postgraduate Certificate International Relations and Democratic Politics Postgraduate Diploma International Relations and Security Postgraduate Certificate International Relations and Security
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 January and September start
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	
Professional statutory or regulatory body	None
Date of course validation/revalidation	2017
Date of programme specification approval	March 2021
Valid for cohorts	From 2021/2
Course Leader	Dr Aidan Hehir
Course URL	https://www.westminster.ac.uk/politics-and-international-relations-courses
University of Westminster course code:	MA International Relations PMPIR03F (Full-time) PMPIR03P (Part-time) MA International Relations and Democratic Politics PMPIR01F (Full-time) PMPIR01P (Part-time) MA International Relations and Security PMPIR02F (Full-time) PMPIR02P (Part-time)
HECoS code	
UK PASS code:	P018532/P004393/P039982

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all postgraduate 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

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certificated or experiential learning at the same level of the qualification for which they wish to apply are advised to visit the following page for further information: westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning.

Aims of The Courses

The Masters of Arts in International Relations aims:

1. To enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of international relations and to make use of the concepts, approaches and methods of International Relations theory to critically analyse the contested nature of global, regional and national politics.
2. To examine at the Masters level events, processes, ideas and institutions of international relations and evaluate the significance of topics including state sovereignty, state failures and foreign interventions; the changing patterns of insecurity, violence and conflict; the role of religion in politics with focus on Islam and transformations in the Middle East; the emergence of non-Western powers of China and India; shifts within the European Union and its role as an international actor; controversies in United States foreign policies; politics of international governance and development.

The Masters of Arts in International Relations and Democratic Politics aims:

1. To ensure that students acquire knowledge and understanding of democratic processes and institutions, and use the concepts, approaches and methods of democratic theory and analysis to develop a critical understanding of their contested nature and application both in the domestic and international realm.
2. To examine at the Master's level the changing nature and dynamics of democratic politics, and to facilitate the development of analytical skills that enable students to understand different democratic initiatives and practice within a wider historical and theoretical framework.
3. To examine discourses of democracy promotion and facilitate an advanced understanding of complex processes of international policy making.

The Masters of Arts in International Relations and Security aims:

1. To ensure that students acquire knowledge and understanding of international relations and security, and use the concepts and approaches of theories of international security to critically analyse and interpret dominant security issues.

2. To examine at the Master's level events, ideas and approaches key to the understanding of the international security agenda, and to evaluate their application, implications and future trajectory within a broader theoretical and historical framework.

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

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

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- 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.

Course Learning Outcomes

One of the characteristics of our MAs is their focus on theoretical and conceptual issues with reference to a wide range of debates in international relations, democratic theory, security studies and cognate disciplines. The courses thus emphasise the importance of theoretically and conceptually-based research methodologies that relate to empirical and normative analysis. To this end, the core modules aim to give you the theoretical and methodological tools you will need to pursue independent research on more specific topics. Within the classroom, the theoretically-based approaches developed by the module leaders as part of the teaching process provide students with ongoing examples of how critical analysis may be developed and applied.

The theoretical and methodological training you will acquire across the core modules, and particularly in the *Dissertation and Research Methods* module, will give you a sound methodological basis to build on in the optional modules and the writing of your dissertation.

Training in the use and development of more specific research skills and methods aimed to help you write your assignments and dissertation is provided by the *Dissertation and Research Methods* module which forms an integral component of each of our Masters programmes. At the beginning of your course of studies, you will be given the *Dissertation and Research Methods* module programme, which will include a specific timetable of taught sessions in your first and second semester. As with other modules, all students are required to attend.

Knowledge and understanding (KU)

By the end of the course, you will be in a position to critically evaluate at an advanced level the nature and significance of international political practice; theoretical approaches and debates in international relations, security and democratic studies; concepts such as power, agency, the state, democracy, security and the international system; the origins and development of the international political system, including contemporary changes underway; the analysis of processes by which the social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of globalisation relate to international politics; and the analytical study of the roles played by political actors, political institutions, strategic behaviour, communicative action and persuasion, hypothesis testing and empirical analysis.

By the end of the Masters course, students will have the knowledge and understanding to -

- KU1 work independently and demonstrate initiative;
- KU2 organize and plan a project and practice time management;
- KU3 to construct reasoned argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise critical judgement at an advanced level;
- KU4 undertake sustained research in the areas of international relations, democratic politics, security and related areas;
- KU5 manage and deliver well-structured, coherently argued, timely and clearly-presented oral and written reports and presentations at an advanced level;
- KU6 collaborate with others to achieve common goals;
- KU7 reflect on your own learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback;
- KU8 manage their own further learning self-critically.

Specific skills (SS)

By the end of the Masters course students will have developed the following course-specific skills –

- SS1 Use acquired knowledge and understanding to initiate your own or your employer's research projects in international relations, politics or related fields;
- SS2 Work independently on research tasks in an organized manner within time constraints;
- SS3 Develop a research strategy, working hypothesis, and methodology in international relations and politics more generally and practice research, hypothesis adaptation, and data collection;
- SS4 Work effectively in a group, and be able to negotiate differences of opinion, collaborate in specific tasks, and manage deadlines;
- SS5 Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing on a variety of topics in at an advanced level;

Key Transferable Skills (KTS)

Many of the skills that you will acquire are specifically transferable to future employment or further research training; at the end of your course you will be able to:

- KTS1 Use acquired knowledge and understanding to initiate your own or your employer's research projects in international relations, politics or related fields;
- KTS2 Work independently on research tasks in an organized manner within time constraints;
- KTS3 Develop a research strategy, working hypothesis, and methodology in international relations and politics more generally and practice research, hypothesis adaptation, and data collection;
- KTS4 Work effectively in a group, and be able to negotiate differences of opinion, collaborate in specific tasks, and manage deadlines;
- KTS5 Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing on a variety of topics in at an advanced level;

Using Your Master's Degree: Our Graduates' Careers

Recent graduates now have jobs in governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations; the mass media; and a range of international business and cross-cultural organisations. Others are studying for higher degrees at other universities throughout the world.

Here are some examples of the ways in which our Masters courses have provided recent graduates with important knowledge, understanding and specific skills that they have been able to transfer to new professional career challenges.

Joyanto M. from India gained his MA in International Relations and Contemporary Political Theory (now entitled International Relations and Democratic Politics) in July 2010, having begun his studies in January 2007. He returned to India in 2010 to take up a post as research analyst for the Strategic Foresight Group, a strategic think tank in Mumbai that specialises in economics and trade, recession and water security. At the time, he wrote: 'I am excited about the work. I am working on south Asia and Western Europe. Strategic Foresight Group is a prestigious think-tank with a high reputation. It works closely with our government in India as well as with various governments across the globe and the UN. I am also giving lectures on journalism in top colleges across the city here.' In 2011 he moved to the Harkisan Mehta Foundation Institute of Journalism and Mass Communication, also in Mumbai, and was appointed institute director. The Harkisan Mehta Institute has produced some of the top media professionals in India over the last 20 or so years.

Richard S. joined our MA in International Relations in September 2007 and gained a Distinction in October the following year. He is now working in the European Parliament's Office for Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy (OPPD). Richard writes: 'A central aspect of my job - and the one I am most involved in - is hosting short term delegations and longer term Democracy Fellows in the Parliament ... [so that] through contact with their European parliamentary equivalents the parliamentarians and officials get to know how the EP deals with particular aspects of parliamentary life. My job mostly involves preparing programmes for these visits.'

'The different ways in which to view international events, which were taught in the MA - the 'neo-colonial' perspective; the understanding of foreign policy as the result of various inputs, including bureaucratic politics and presidential preferences (both very recognizable from my current position); the poststructuralist re-readings; etc. - were most valuable. These general approaches can be re-applied to new issue areas... Even though my MA in IR is not necessary in my position, it was certainly necessary for me to get the position in the first place. It functions as a signal of my interest in the general subject area and my basic analytical ability. As part of this signalling, the name of the faculty, 'Centre for the Study of Democracy', was probably also of central importance.

Mona E-K from Egypt gained her MSc in Politics from Cairo University in 2006. She won the University President's Scholarship to study for her masters in International Relations and Contemporary Political Theory (International Relations and Democratic Politics) at Westminster. She graduated in July 2008 with a Merit. After graduation she obtained an internship at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London working on the Gulf. She recently completed her PhD on Representation in Egyptian public spaces at Kings College at the University of London.

Teaching and Learning

Our teaching and learning approach encourages students and staff to see themselves as part of a learning community. We encourage staff to develop not only their research, but also the

ways in which they communicate and share their knowledge with colleagues and students. Our aim is to enhance the learning experience for students.

In line with School policy, we are committed to:

1. encouraging and developing student-centred, independent and active learning, so that students are encouraged to think, act and learn for themselves and to reflect upon their learning.
2. equipping its graduates with the knowledge, understanding and professional skills to enable them to make an effective contribution to society and to build meaningful careers.
3. continuous and rigorous improvement in the quality of the teaching delivered by its staff and the learning opportunities provided for its students.
4. a culture of professionalism and continuing professional development of its staff and all their activities.
5. valuing teaching and learning and developing mechanisms and structures that recognise and reward excellence in teaching.
6. providing programmes which meet the needs of students in London and the wider community, and to operating a teaching, learning and assessment strategy which maximizes participation, retention and completion.
7. underpinning and informing teaching excellence by staff research, apprising students of the latest relevant research, and involving students in staff research where possible.
8. sharing knowledge, life experience and expertise as part of the curriculum, maximising the wide range of experiences present in our diverse and international student body.
9. continuous monitoring and evaluation of its teaching activities to ensure the quality of its provision following the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy.
10. through the School, to producing clear and measurable teaching and learning targets annually, which actuate our teaching and learning principles.

Assessment

The overall approach to assessment reinforces the philosophy, syllabuses and teaching strategy of the Masters Programme. In designing our assessment strategy, we purposely rejected traditional exams as not offering the best means by which we could assess higher order analytical, diagnostic, comprehension, imaginative, and critical skills; and because they might discriminate against students unfamiliar with the British higher education system. In lieu, we have designed sensitive methods of continual assessment that better meet course aims and objectives.

Continual assessment methods include delivering written project work, marked oral and written presentations, book reviews, essays, and the dissertation.

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.

You are expected to demonstrate a clear 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

Students will be working on their dissertations throughout the duration of the entire course. In each semester the 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.

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.

Core modules are compulsory. They define a particular course of study and provide you with its theoretical and intellectual foundations. In each of our Masters courses, they place questions of international order and politics at the centre of analysis; ensure that you are able to acquire appropriate knowledge and understanding and are able to understand and use relevant concepts, approaches and methods and how these relate to other areas of academic enquiry. One core module is common to all three Masters degrees: "Dissertation and Research Methods". In this module you will work independently, under the supervision of a tutor, to apply the knowledge, understanding and skills gained from other modules to design a research strategy and methodology that includes the development, adaptation, and testing of a hypothesis or research question contextualised in existing research, and which leads to you executing and writing up a relatively advanced piece of research.

Option modules allow you to choose from a list of related modules that reflect your particular interests.

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of each MA course and their credit value.

Please note

- Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year
- Part-time Postgraduate students study 80 credits in year 1, 100 credits in year 2
- Restrictions on option modules apply to each course; check below.
- Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year

MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY
(MA Full-Time Mode)

Core Modules Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS017W	International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives	Core	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Core Modules Semester 2				
7PIRS001W	Beyond International Relations	Core	20	10

Four Option Modules: Two per Semester

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations Students **cannot** take the following modules:

7PIRS027W Theories of International Security

7PIRS002W Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR JANUARY ENTRY
(MA Full-Time Mode)**

Core Modules Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS001W	Beyond International Relations	Core	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Core Modules Semester 2				
7PIRS017W	International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives	Core	20	10

Four Option Modules: Two per Semester

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations Students **cannot** take the following modules:

7PIRS027W Theories of International Security

7PIRS002W Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY
(MA Part-Time Mode)**

Year 1: Core Modules Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS017W	International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives	Core	20	10
Year 1: Core Modules Semester 2				
7PIRS001W	Beyond International Relations	Core	20	10

Year 2: Core Modules Semester 1				
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Year 2: Core Modules Semester 2				

Four Option Modules: Two per Year (one each semester)

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations Students **cannot** take the following modules:

7PIRS027W Theories of International Security

7PIRS002W Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR JANUARY ENTRY
(MA Part-Time Mode)**

Year 1 Core Modules: Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS001W	Beyond International Relations	Core	20	10
Year 1 Core Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS017W	International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives	Core	20	10

Year 2: Core Modules Semester 1				
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Year 2: Core Modules Semester 2				
	N/A			

Four Option Modules: Two per Year (one each semester)

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations Students **cannot** take the following modules:

7PIRS027W Theories of International Security

7PIRS002W Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY
(MA Full-Time Mode)**

Core Modules Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS027W	Theories of International Security	Core	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Core Modules Semester 2				
7PIRS002W	Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence	Core	20	10

Four Option Modules: Two per Semester

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations and Security students cannot take the following modules
7PIRS017W International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives
7PIRS001W Beyond International Relations

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR JANUARY ENTRY
(MA Full-Time Mode)**

Core Modules Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS002W	Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence	Core	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Core Modules Semester 2				
7PIRS027W	Theories of International Security	Core	20	10

Four Option Modules: Two per Semester

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations and Security students cannot take the following modules
 7PIRS017W International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives
 7PIRS001W Beyond International Relations

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY
(MA Part-Time Mode)**

Year 1 Core Modules: Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS027W	Theories of International Security	Core	20	10
Year 1 Core Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS002W	Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence	Core	20	10

Year 2 Core Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Year 2 Core Modules: Semester 2				
	N/A			

Four Option Modules: Two per Year (one per Semester)

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations and Security students cannot take the following modules
 7PIRS017W International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives
 7PIRS001W Beyond International Relations

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR JANUARY ENTRY
(MA Part-Time Mode)**

Core Modules Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS002W	Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence	Core	20	10
Core Modules Semester 2				
7PIRS027W	Theories of International Security	Core	20	10

Year 2 Core Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Year 2 Core Modules: Semester 2				
	N/A			

Four Option Modules: Two per Year (one per Semester)

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Option	20	
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	

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

MA International Relations and Security students cannot take the following modules

7PIRS017W International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives

7PIRS001W Beyond International Relations

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICS COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY
(MA Full-Time Mode)**

Core Modules Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Core	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Core Modules Semester 2				
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Core	20	10

Four Option Modules: Two per Semester

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations and Democratic Politics Students **cannot** take the following modules:

7PIRS027W Theories of International Security

7PIRS002W Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence

7PIRS017W International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives

7PIRS001W Beyond International Relations

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICS COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR JANUARY ENTRY
(MA Full-Time Mode)**

Core Modules Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Core	20	
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	
Core Modules Semester 2				
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Core	20	

Four Option Modules: Two per Semester

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations and Democratic Politics Students **cannot** take the following modules:

7PIRS027W Theories of International Security

7PIRS002W Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence

7PIRS017W International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives

7PIRS001W Beyond International Relations

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICS COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY
(MA Part-Time Mode)**

Year 1 Core Modules: Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Core	20	10
Year 1 Core Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Core	20	10

Year 2 Core Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Year 2 Core Modules: Semester 2				
	N/A			

Four Option Modules: Two per Year (one per Semester)

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations and Democratic Politics Students cannot take the following modules:

7PIRS027W Theories of International Security

7PIRS002W Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence

7PIRS017W International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives

7PIRS001W Beyond International Relations

**MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICS COURSE STRUCTURE
FOR JANUARY ENTRY
(MA Part-Time Mode)**

Year 1 Core Modules: Semester 1				
Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Core	20	10
Year 1 Core Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity	Core	20	10

Year 2 Core Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods (year-long)	Core	60	30
Year 2 Core Modules: Semester 2				
	N/A			

Four Option Modules: Two per Year (one per semester)

Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1				
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	20	101
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	20	10
Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2				
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change	Option	20	10
7PIRS021W	Policy, Governance and Democracy	Option	20	10
7SOCL001W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	20	10

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

MA International Relations and Democratic Politics Students cannot take the following modules:

7PIRS027W Theories of International Security

7PIRS002W Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence

7PIRS017W International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives

7PIRS001W Beyond International Relations

Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

N/A

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations. In some cases course specific regulations may be applicable.

How will you be supported in your studies?

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 Campus Registry. 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. Further information on Blackboard can be found at westminster.ac.uk/blackboard.

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. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students¹ 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 College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services 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. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at westminster.ac.uk/student-advice. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at westminster.ac.uk/students-union.

¹ Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

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

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in **2017**. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a 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 College 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 evidence of student achievement, reports from external examiners in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

A Course revalidation 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 Revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years 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. Course 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 course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience 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.

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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