

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MA Politics and International Relations
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time Modular Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	One-year full time / two years part time Up to five years (modular) Entry points: September or January
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2025/26 is £10,100</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2025/26 is £5,600*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £16,600**</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. Overview of the Programme

The **MA in Politics and International Relations** is a gateway to mastering the complexities of power, conflict, diplomacy, and policy in a rapidly changing world. This cutting-edge programme blends rigorous academic insight with real-world relevance, empowering you to think critically, act decisively, and make a difference on the global stage.

The programme is designed to provide you with an intensive period of study in which you can engage in advanced-level analysis, both theoretical and empirical, of the key issues and debates connected to your chosen specialism (Politics or International Relations), gain a thorough grounding in the philosophical, conceptual and methodological foundations of Politics and International Relations, and develop your own independent research and study skills.

All modules on the programme are taught by research specialists who have high levels of expertise in their subject, and a track record of delivering their teaching in innovative and engaging ways. The teaching takes place primarily in seminar format. This encourages debate and interaction, fosters collective academic enquiry, and enables you to increase your knowledge base and develop your analytical and critical thinking skills. The assessments on the programme are diverse, once again allowing you to develop a range of skills, and to address and assess issues of political and international concern in a variety of different ways.

You will graduate with a strong understanding of how to apply concepts, theories, and evidence-gathering strategies to issues of national and global concern. You will also have gained a broader and deeper knowledge of the complex political and international challenges that face us in the Twenty First century. In addition, you will have developed the analytical and practical research skills needed to deploy your expertise and abilities in your future career. This will equip you for a range of careers, be it in the UK or further afield, including those in local and national government; the civil, diplomatic or security services; international organizations; non-governmental organizations and civil society groups; public affairs; and all manner of policy making jobs.

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are:

- Equip you with a comprehensive understanding of key theories, concepts, and debates in politics and international relations, fostering critical engagement with the challenges and opportunities of contemporary global governance.
- Provide a thorough grounding in the philosophical, conceptual, and methodological foundations of the disciplines of Politics and International Relations.
- Enable you to develop a specialism in your chosen area of Politics and International Relations.
- Provide you with the skills needed to apply theories and concepts to key themes and debates in Politics and International Relations.
- Provide you with advanced methods and skills needed to critically evaluate and analyse key themes and debates in Politics and International Relations.
- Offer a thorough and rigorous grounding in research methods and skills necessary to conduct independent study in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations.
- Enable you to conduct an independent research project in your chosen area of Politics and International Relations.
- Enable you to develop your own time management, independent working, and written and oral communication skills, as well as enhance your cooperative active learning and group work skills.

4. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do by the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- a) Subject knowledge and understanding
- b) Subject specific skills
- c) Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

a) Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Key theoretical frameworks in politics and international relations, analysing the concepts of power, authority, governance, and global cooperation in a variety of contexts.
- The philosophical, theoretical, conceptual, and methodological foundations of the disciplines of Politics and International Relations.
- Core issues, debates, and themes central to the study of Politics and International Relations.
- Research methodologies relevant to the fields of Politics and International Relations.

b) Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply core theoretical, conceptual, and analytical frameworks to the study of Politics and International Relations, and to real-world problems in these fields
- Deploy advanced knowledge, methods and skills to critically evaluate and analyse key themes and debates in Politics and International Relations, and the evidence and arguments upon which these themes and debates are based.
- Creatively apply key research strategies, methods, and skills (including the gathering of evidence) to undertake independent research work in the fields of Politics and International Relations.

c) Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced level written and oral communication skills.

- Demonstrate individual organizational and time management capabilities.
- Demonstrate cooperative learning skills and group work skills.
- Systematically evaluate complex issues, including by critically assessing evidence and data to reach sound and accurate conclusions and judgements.
- Analyse and evaluate political policies, international agreements, and global institutions, understanding their impact, effectiveness, and consequences.
- Deploy an in-depth understanding of cultural diversity, global politics, and international relations, and the ability to navigate diverse cultural contexts in a politically and socially sensitive manner.

Keele Graduate attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the MA programme vary according to the subject matter and include:

- Interactive seminars in which you will discuss and evaluate theories, arguments and ideas with your peers, in ways structured or facilitated by academic tutors.
- Presentations in which you will demonstrate your knowledge and put forward arguments.
- Small group work in which you will work as a team to research a topic and then share your ideas with peers and academics
- An independent study project (dissertation), guided and supported by a supervisor with subject appropriate expertise.
- Guided reading lists to support your independent learning and assist you in preparing your assessments.
- A range of electronic resources (accessed through the Keele Learning Environment) to further support you in your preparation for class and your independent study.

In addition to these formal activities and resources, you are also provided with regular opportunities to talk to or contact your module tutors and/or Academic Mentors with any questions about your studies, any concerns or difficulties you may be facing, or any specific learning requirements you may have.

6. Teaching Staff

All the current teaching staff in the School of Social Sciences with expertise in the fields of Politics and International Relations are available to contribute to teaching on the MA programme and supervision of students' individual dissertations. The current staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and at conducting supervision at Masters and PhD level in universities in the UK, continental Europe and North America. All of the current teaching staff contributing to the MA programme have completed training as part of their induction to university teaching. 80% of them are members or associates of the Higher Education Academy and/or have a formal teaching qualification.

The University will attempt to minimize changes to our core teaching teams. However, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard. Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill, or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

The academic year runs from September to September and is divided into three semesters. If you enrol in January your academic year will run from January to January, commencing in the Spring semester, running through the summer, and concluding at the end of the Autumn semester in January. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;

- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 7	150	30	30

Module Lists

Level 7

Note that in the module list below, Semester 1 refers to the autumn semester, and Semester 2 refers to the spring semester. Students who start in January will take modules labelled 'Semester 2' before they take modules labelled 'Semester 1'.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Continuity and Change in World Politics	PIR-40172	30	Semester 1
Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy	SOC-40018	30	Semester 1
Contemporary Political Challenges	PIR-40174	30	Semester 2
Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	PIR-40105	60	Semester 2-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Conflict, Security and Diplomacy	PIR-40168	30	Semester 2
Analysing Public Policy	PIR-40176	30	Semester 2

For students enrolled in **January**, the programme is spread over 12 months (running from January to January):

Spring Semester	Summer	Autumn Semester
PIR-40174: Contemporary Political Challenges PIR-40176: Analysing Public Policy OR PIR-40168: Conflict, Security and Diplomacy		PIR-40172: Continuity and Change in World Politics SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy
	PIR-40105: Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	

For students enrolled **part-time in September**, the programme is spread over 24 months - see table below.

Year One [60 credits]		
Autumn Semester	Spring Semester	
PIR-40172: Continuity and Change in World Politics	PIR-40174: Contemporary Political Challenges	
Year Two [120 credits]		
Autumn Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy	PIR-40176: Analysing Public Policy OR PIR-40168: Conflict, Security and Diplomacy	
	PIR-40105: Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	

For students enrolled **part-time in January**, the programme is spread over 24 months (running from January to January):

Year One [60 credits]		
Spring Semester	Summer	Autumn Semester
PIR-40174: Contemporary Political Challenges		PIR-40172: Continuity and Change in World Politics
Year Two [120 credits]		
Spring Semester	Summer	Autumn Semester
PIR-40176: Analysing Public Policy Or PIR-40168: Conflict, Security and Diplomacy		SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy
	PIR-40105: Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	

Students enrolled in January (full-time and part-time) will commence work on PIR-40105: Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations before SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy, which is designed to teach approaches to research and support the design of the dissertation. In order to support dissertation design, before SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy commences, support workshops will be offered at the end of the spring semester. This support will scaffold dissertation research before SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy commences in the Autumn Semester.

Modular mode of study

Students studying via the modular route can accumulate their degree credits over a period of maximum 5 years (including the dissertation, any re-assessments and periods of leave of absence). The modular route is based on a rolling programme of modules. The number of modules taken each year will depend on candidates' individual needs and capabilities. It is however important to consider that in some years students will need to take more than one module to allow accumulation of all 180 taught credits within 5 years. It may also be advisable to reserve one full year for the dissertation module.

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module

specifications.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Identify the component parts of the global political order and demonstrate systematic knowledge of how these have functioned at different points in time.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of the core philosophical and analytical approaches used in research in Politics and International Relations, and an advanced understanding of their underpinnings.	Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018
Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the key challenges facing contemporary politics.	Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Deploy advanced knowledge of the operation of the policy cycle and its practical operation in a range of different policy areas.	Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105
Critically engage with advanced political theories and concepts, analyzing how they shape our understanding of global politics, state sovereignty, power relations, and international governance.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168
Analyze current global events using a range of theoretical lenses to explore issues like security, conflict, global trade, and human rights.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Critically evaluate political theories, ideologies, and empirical research, identifying key arguments, assumptions, and limitations in scholarly works.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168
Demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to engage with complex political arguments and identify biases in both theoretical and empirical research.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168
Design and conduct original research using appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods, including comparative case studies, surveys, or content analysis.	Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105
Apply key political theories and concepts to real-world political situations, offering detailed and structured analyses of current events or historical phenomena.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Effectively communicate complex political ideas, both in written form (essays, reports) and / or orally (presentations, debates, discussions), in a clear and persuasive manner.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Develop a heightened awareness of the ethical challenges and responsibilities inherent in political leadership, decision-making, and international diplomacy.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Assess political policies, analyze their impact, and develop well-founded recommendations for political reform, drawing on theoretical insights and empirical evidence.	Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
The ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively, both in written and oral formats, including formal reports, policy briefs, academic papers, and presentations.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
The ability to critically assess complex issues, identify problems, and propose well-reasoned solutions, drawing on evidence and theoretical frameworks.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Development of the skills to manage multiple projects and deadlines effectively, balancing research, coursework, and other responsibilities.	Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105
Demonstrate the ability to work effectively as part of a team, contributing to group discussions, joint research projects, and collaborative complex problem-solving.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Acquire advanced skills in sourcing, evaluating, and synthesizing information from various sources, managing large amounts of data efficiently.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Develop leadership capabilities, including the ability to lead discussions, manage interactions, and engage in group negotiations.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Cultivate the ability to adapt to new situations, work in dynamic environments, and address unforeseen challenges effectively.	Continuity and Change in World Politics - PIR-40172 Conflict, Security and Diplomacy - PIR-40168 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Analysing Public Policy - PIR-40176 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Contemporary Political Challenges - PIR-40174
Develop the ability to make ethical decisions in complex scenarios, considering the broader context of institutional frameworks.	Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105

8. Final and intermediate awards

Master's Degree MA Politics and International Relations	180 credits	You will require at least 150 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits	You will require at least 90 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits	You will require at least 45 credits at Level 7

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- Essays
- Research reports
- Case studies
- Analyses of an analytical or methodological approach
- Policy evaluations and recommendations
- Podcasts
- Group oral presentations
- Research proposals
- Dissertations

In module documents (including on the KLE) and in class time, teaching staff pay particular attention to explaining the assessments used on each module, and to specifying clear assessment criteria. In addition, you may contact or meet with individual staff to discuss questions or areas of concern. Assignments assess your understanding of the module content, as well as your analytical abilities, including your capacity to evaluate particular debates, material and/or evidence. Written assessments enable an assessment of your written communication skills, while oral presentations and oral exams allow for an assessment of spoken communication skills. Reflective research reports and the dissertation facilitate assessment of your ability to select, apply and evaluate appropriate research designs and methods to any chosen topic of study. Feedback is given on all assessments in a timely manner - within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible. Feedback is constructive and includes guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work.

10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:
<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director.

The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

13. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

Each student on the programme is allocated a member of the programme team as an Academic Mentor. Regular meetings are arranged for the student to meet with their Mentor, normally face to face, to review overall progress and to discuss any academic issues of concern. Extra meetings can be scheduled at the request of the student or the Mentor, as needed. Students may also contact or meet with their module tutors to discuss the intellectual content of the module, and/or to ask questions or seek advice on assessments. Students receive written feedback from their module tutors on their assessed work. They may also contact or meet with these tutors should they like to discuss this feedback in more detail, and/or meet with their Academic Mentor to do so.

The programme also organizes its own Staff-Student Voice Committee, in which staff and student representatives can discuss any issues of concern. The University's Language Centre offers a range of services to students whose first language is not English, including language classes (both credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing), and one-to-one tutorials that offer individual language support with assignments.

The Academic and Digital Skills team also offers a range of services to help students develop their academic skills. This includes a wealth of online resources and workshops on topics including using academic sources, developing critical thinking and analysis skills, preparing for oral presentations, and preparing written assessments. In addition, the team offers one-to-one appointments with individual students to discuss their specific needs.

The School of Social Sciences also runs a series of workshops aimed specifically at supporting PGT students. These include a workshop on good academic practice (with guidance on quoting, paraphrasing, and referencing), on services to support students, and on the development of career and future plans. The School also facilitates sessions with our subject librarian to enhance student skills in identifying and accessing relevant reading resources, source material and data.

Students also have the opportunity to use the resources of Keele Careers to find out more about the kinds of career opportunities open to them, to receive guidance on how to apply for specific jobs, and to receive advice on how to prepare for job applications or interviews. Keele Careers runs workshops on a range of topics, and also provides one-to-one sessions for individually focussed support.

14. Learning Resources

The main body of the programme is delivered through self-study materials, which comprise mainly traditional text-based resources (especially academic books and journal articles) available in the library, either in hard copy or electronically (through e-books and e-journals).

In addition, a range of electronic learning resources are available for students to access through each module's KLE page. This includes digitized readings, links to useful websites (such as those of international organizations, government bodies, or useful datasets), links to relevant news articles, and other material.

All module KLE pages also include study skills resources, to further enhance the support that students may draw on. These resources include an online tutorial called StudyWrite, which provides guidance on a variety of topics such as note-taking, referencing, and avoiding plagiarism.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

Each academic year, the School organizes a series of research seminars at which researchers (both from within the School, and from other universities) present their work. Students are encouraged to attend in order to learn

about cutting-edge research being conducted in a range of areas in Politics and International Relations, as well as in cognate disciplines. Students also have the opportunity to attend public talks offered by the School and the University. These include the School's Spotlight in International Relations series where notable alumni come back to Keele to talk about what they have gone on to do; as well as the renowned Keele World Affairs lectures, and the Keele Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences Grand Challenges lectures, both of which attract big-name speakers.

16. Additional Costs

Additional costs will be incurred for inter-library loans and any overdue library fines, as well as for printing, and gown-hire at graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and

enhancement procedures and activities across the School.

- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-politics-and-international-relations>

c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 01 August 2025

What's Changed

To remove PIR-40170: Researching Politics and International Relations as the core for the MA in Politics and International Relations, and replace it with SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy. Approved at FEC 22nd July 2025.

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	PHILIP CATNEY	20 June 2025	