

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For students starting in Academic Year 2023/24

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSc International Development
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2023/24 is £8,900</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2023/24 is £4,900 per year*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2023/24 is £17,700</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 programme is aimed at students who wish to specialise in the study of International Development. International Development is a core international policy priority, part of the United Nations' 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to reduce global inequalities and injustices and combat poverty. The degree draws on the long-standing expertise within the School of Social, Political and Global Studies, and in the wider Faculty and University, on international relations, sustainability and the environment, conflict and security, and post-conflict reconstruction to offer an innovative and intensive period of study on the practices and challenges of International Development. It differs from other programmes in the UK and internationally because of its focus on the environmental and security aspects of international development. It provides a distinctive focus on the connections between development and global environmental change and challenges; as well as on the connections between development, conflict and security transnationally and in different areas of the world.

The University's strategic plan stresses the need to be 'global in outlook and international in action'. This

programme inherently meets this need by examining some of the world's most pressing development problems, including the intense challenges of environmental change, and reconstruction and development after conflict, as well as the global political problems that shape all issues of global inequality. The degree fits directly with the School, Faculty and University's Education priorities to internationalise the curriculum, as the programme explores some of the most pressing issues facing development in the Global South; and is also centrally concerned with the impacts of environmental change, conflict and security on human life.

The MSc dovetails - but it also separate from - existing MA and MSc programmes in Politics and International Relations; particularly MA pathways in International Relations, Global Security and MSc International Diplomacy. It shares core research training and some optional modules with these programmes, thereby making the programme resilient; but also offers modules focused on international development.

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Undertake an intensive period of study specialising in international development in a systematic and disciplined manner
- Undertake study and research in international development to prepare you for employment in this field, as appropriate
- Gain in-depth grounding in core theoretical and practical aspects of international development
- Conduct an independent research project in the field of international development
- Critically engage with methods, sources, and data, many of which are at the cutting edge of the discipline, to analyse aspects of international development
- Analyse, discuss and evaluate pressing issues of international development, for instance state-building, security, post-conflict reconstruction, environmental challenges and change
- Develop time management, independent working, written and oral communication skills, and enhance group work skills, as well as developing skills to learn co-operatively and actively in tutorials and lectures, and to learn independently
- Gain modern foreign language skills, or develop skills in English for academic purposes, as appropriate

4. What you will learn

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

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

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate key themes and challenges in international development
- Draw on theories and research methods to develop independent analyses of problems in international development
- Critically engage with the politics of international development, broadly defined
- Develop practical solutions to challenges of international development, and critically appraise their advantages and limitations

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply key research methods and strategies to develop interests in International Development and undertake independent research work
- Critically evaluate core analytical frameworks and apply them to real-world problems of international development
- Apply the knowledge and analytical study skills, for example the gathering, assessment and analysis of evidence, or the application of theories, necessary to pursue further academic research, or to pursue careers related to the subject area

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced level written and oral communication skills, and individual organisational capabilities
- If appropriate, advance their English language or foreign language skills
- Demonstrate advanced level understanding of concepts and challenges in international development, necessary to pursue careers related to the subject area
- Critically evaluate methods and approaches to making practical advances in international development

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

5. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- In-depth lectures sharing tutors' subject and research expertise with students; and, where appropriate, encouraging students to discuss this
- Tutorial discussions in which students share, discuss, and evaluate ideas, in debates structured or facilitated by tutors
- Individual and group presentations in which students present ideas and arguments
- Guided reading lists to support students' independent learning
- Independent dissertation, guided by a supervisor, and supported by the research training modules and by additional dissertation preparation workshops, to study in-depth a research topic, question of questions and to apply relevant methodologies to examine that topic, question or questions

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- Advanced level training in research methods in the discipline through opportunities to apply research methods to practical problems of the students' devising and through provision of knowledge about different approaches to research methods in the relevant discipline
- Delivery of advanced-level information through lectures and guided reading lists about key challenges, contestations, and debates in the field of international development broadly defined, about critical approaches to those challenges, and about real-world examples of those issues and of how international development is experienced in different local contexts
- Opportunity for structured discussion in tutorials to facilitate deep learning about the subject matter and to share ideas
- Variety of assessment methods to provide opportunities for all learners and to offer opportunities to gain transferable skills
- In-depth dissertation to develop critical analytical skills, alongside evidence gathering, evaluation, and independent research skills, and opportunity for extended study of a particular area in international development

6. Teaching Staff

All current staff in International Relations, Politics, Law and Geography who will contribute to the MSc either as module convenors or contributors, or dissertation supervisors, have relevant expertise in their fields; and all have extensive experience teaching Masters and undergraduate students, and in Masters and PhD supervision, in these areas in the UK. All the current teaching staff contributing to the Masters have completed training as part of their induction to university teaching. 70% of them are members of the Higher Education Academy and/or have a formal teaching qualification.

The University will attempt to minimise 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 MSc International Development requires 180 credits, made up of taught modules and a 60-credit dissertation. It is structured as follows:

- 3 compulsory modules, making 45 credits
- 5 optional modules, each of 15 credits, totalling 75 credits
- A 15,000 word dissertation on an International Development topic, totalling 60 credits

Students starting in September will complete the course in the following order; Autumn Semester (semester 1); Spring Semester (semester 2); Summer

Students starting in January will complete the course in the following order: Spring Semester (semester 2); Summer; Autumn semester (semester 1)

For full time students, starting in September 2023, the structure of the programme is as follows:

	Autumn Semester (Sem 1)	Spring Semester (Sem 2)	Summer (Sem 3)
Compulsory modules	PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits) PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict		PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits)
Recommended and optional modules	1 module from the list below (1 x 15 credits)	4 modules from the list below (4 x 15 credits)	

For full time students, starting January 2024, and thereafter, the structure of the programme is as follows:

	Spring Semester	Autumn Semester	Summer
Compulsory modules		PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits) PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict	PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits)
Recommended and optional modules	4 modules from the list below (4 x 15 credits)	1 module from the list below (1 x 15 credits)	

For part-time students starting in September 2023, the structure of the programme is as follows:

	Autumn Semester (Sem 1)	Spring Semester (Sem 2)	Summer (Sem 3)
YEAR ONE			
Compulsory modules	PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict		PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits)
Recommended and optional modules		2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)	
YEAR TWO			
Compulsory modules		PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits)	Completion of dissertation
Recommended and optional modules	2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)	1 module from the list below (1 x 15 credits)	

For part-time students starting in January 2024, and thereafter, the structure of the programme is as follows:

	Spring Semester	Autumn Semester	Summer
YEAR ONE			
Compulsory modules		PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits)	PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits)
Recommended and optional modules	2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)		
YEAR TWO			
Compulsory modules	PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits)		Completion of dissertation
Recommended and optional modules	1 module from the list below (1 x 15 credits)	2 modules from the list below (1 x 15 credits)	

The compulsory modules are:

PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) Semester 1: This module offers an in-depth and hands-on introduction to different methods of knowledge generation, and opportunity to experience a particular research method through the accomplishment of a chosen task. The module is taught during semester 1 and is key to the development of the students' methodological expertise.

PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits) Semester 1: This module is taught during semester 2 in an intensive workshop like approach. It provides students with a foundation in the mainstream philosophies and approaches to studying social science disciplines, including international development, as part of the discipline of international relations. It examines how scholars have approached the issues of what to study and how to study, and considers how these issues are related to historical and current power relations in world politics. It further enables students to develop their research design skills and independent study ideas.

PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict (15 credits) (Semester 1): This module provides an advanced level study of core theories and approaches to international development, equipping students with the tools to analyse and debate the question of international development, focusing particularly on the relationships between international development, environmental change and conflict.

PIR-40105: Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations: The dissertation begins with preliminary discussions between the student and their chosen supervisor, and follows from, and develops, the research skills gained in the research training modules, which are honed further in dedicated dissertation workshops. The student chooses a topic area in the study of international development on which they will focus; and, in consultation with their supervisor, narrows the topic to a research question or questions to which they will use research methods to advance an answer. Students must complete a dissertation on a question or topic in international development, and they must draw on research skills to do so. The student independently researches and writes the dissertation for submission in September. Students starting the programme in January will complete a draft in September, and will receive further supervision during the autumn semester. The aim of the dissertation is to enable the student to explore in-depth a topic of their choice about international development; to apply their knowledge of advanced level literature, to use their independent research skills (both evidence-gathering and analytical skills) and critical judgement to produce an extended piece of written work (15,000 words), making independent assessments of their chosen question or questions. The dissertation should show understanding of how knowledge is produced in the discipline relevant to international development, as well as awareness of real-world issues that affect this field.

5 optional modules of 15 credits each, making 75 credits.

Options include (but may vary each year):

Modules are offered from SPGS unless otherwise stated.

The modules recommended for International Development students are:

Semester 1:

PIR-40088: The Theory of Global Security (15 credits) (Semester 1): This module explores the main theoretical traditions through which security has been understood and examines contemporary problems of security and development

GEG-40006: Economic Development and Environmental Transformation (Geography 15 credits) (Semester 1) This module investigates connections between economic development and the environment; examining global development and conservation through the developing world.

Semester 2:

PIR-40146: Post-conflict development: cases and approaches (15 credits) (Semester 2): This module will offer an in-depth exploration of how states can rebuild after conflict, focusing on real-world examples of development

LAW-40043: International Environmental Law (Law, 15 credits) (Semester 2): This module offers a critical perspective on the development of international environmental law; providing grounding in the legal norms, institutions and processes of the field, exploring current environmental global issues such as biodiversity loss, trade and environment, food security and climate change through specific treaty regimes.

LAW-40058: International Refugee Law (Law, 15 credits) (Semester 2): This module gives an advanced level overview of key issues in international migration - a key challenge faced in development.

Students may also choose:

Semester 1 modules:

PIR-40156: The international politics of war and memory (15 credits) (Semester 1): This module examines why war happens, and how the politics of war memory influence and shape contemporary politics

PIR-40093: The Changing International Agenda (15 credits) (Semester 1): this module offers an in-depth critical assessment of the development, change and nature of the international system

PIR-40136: International Diplomacy (15 credits) (Semester 2): this module offers an advanced level and innovative exploration of the theories and practices underpinning international diplomacy, and considers the varied settings in which diplomacy takes place

PIR-41058: The Global Politics of Islam (15 credits) (Semester 1): This module addresses the international challenges of the politics of Islam.

LAW-40048: Foundations of Human Rights (Law, 15 credits) (Semester 1): This module provides an advanced level understanding of the development of concepts of human rights and examines the contemporary political sociology of human rights, covering a range of issues and topics.

LAW-40047: Equality, Discrimination and Minorities (Law, 15 credits) (Semester 1): This module examines in-depth particular inequalities of international human rights policy and practices; and provides an advanced level study of conceptual and normative aspects of ethics, equality and the non-discrimination paradigm.

PIR-40106: Dimensions of Environmental Politics (15 credits) (Semester 1): This module aims to provide students with an overview of key concepts, debates, processes and discourses in relation to the political dynamics of the environment; providing an advanced level introduction to environmental politics and international relations.

GEG-40020: Key Themes in Human Geography and Sustainability (Geography 15 credits) (Semester 1): This module explores key debates in human geography and sustainability, including focus on the relevance of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in contemporary world politics.

Semester 2 modules:

GRT-40020 Quantitative Research and Data Analysis (15 credits) (Semester 2): This module provides a comprehensive introduction to the principles and practices of quantitative social science research.

GRT-40021 Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits) (Semester 2): This module provides an overview of the wide range of qualitative methods used in social science research.

PIR-40162: Politics and security dynamics in the Middle East (15 credits) (Semester 2): This module explores the seminal importance of the Middle East to stability and instability in global politics, and to the politics of the region. It considers regional, sub-regional, and transnational factors and processes that influence political transformations and security concerns in this area, and how they connect with local, national, and global players and developments.

PIR-40128: Maritime security (15 credits) (Semester 2): This module offers an advanced introduction to the field of maritime security, exploring the intellectual and practical history of the field and the legal and political concepts undergirding it, and building awareness and knowledge about the sea and its politics.

PIR-40138: Crises, conflict and diplomacy (15 credits) (Semester 2): This module explores the management of crisis in world politics, looking at real-world examples of how states use diplomacy to avoid conflict, and why and how they succeed or fail

PIR-40142: The geopolitics of nationalism and populism (15 credits) (Semester 2): This module will offer a critical exploration of the relationships between nationalism/populism and security from a geopolitical perspective. The module will focus on theoretical approaches and case studies relating to various historical and contemporary issues such as war and peace, self-determination, national-populism and foreign policy and more.

PIR-40119: Race and Justice in the US (15 credits) (Semester 2): Despite the successes of the 1960s civil rights movement, discrimination is still a top issue in the US. This module examines how discrimination, inequality and civil rights have been navigated and negotiated in the US from the second half of the twentieth century.

PIR-40096: Comparative European Politics (15 credits) (Semester 2): informed by classic and contemporary theoretical and empirical approaches to comparative politics, this module considers the nature and role of fundamental political structures in Europe (including electoral systems, political parties, executives and legislatures). It explores the ways in which these structures, and the actors within them, interact.

LAW-40046: Human Rights and Global Politics (Law, 15 credits) (Semester 2): This module explores evolving political and legal strategies to advance human rights in a global political framework; examining global civil society and the expansion and role of transnational human rights.

Students can also choose to take **English as an Academic Practice**, or can choose to take a **modern foreign language**: Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian or Spanish modules at various levels from absolute beginners to intermediate or advanced level. Module placements will be undertaken by the language centre and will be based on students' existing language qualifications and skills.

International students whose first language is not English will have a diagnostic language assessment by the Language centre. Where a student is evaluated by the Language Centre as needing Academic English support via modules ENL-40001 or ENL-40002 Academic English for PG students, the student is expected to take the recommended Academic English module as a module option contributing to the overall course credits (i.e. 15 credits of 180 credits). Native or near-native English-speaking students may, as an alternative, normally take ONE semester 1 or 2 module in one of the languages offered by the Langue Centre or a further subject-related (level 7) module relevant to their research area.

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 7	105	75	75	0	0

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Research in Action	PIR-40095	15	Semester 1
Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations	PIR-40144	15	Semester 1
International Development: Environment and Conflict	PIR-40152	15	Semester 1
Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	PIR-40105	60	Semester 2-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Economic Development and Environmental Transformation (Masters)	GEG-40006	15	Semester 1
Key Themes in Human Geography and Sustainability	GEG-40020	15	Semester 1
Equality, Discrimination, Minorities	LAW-40047	15	Semester 1
Foundations of Human Rights	LAW-40048	15	Semester 1
The Theory of Global Security	PIR-40088	15	Semester 1
The Changing International Agenda	PIR-40093	15	Semester 1
Dimensions of Environmental Politics	PIR-40106	15	Semester 1
The international politics of war and memory	PIR-40156	15	Semester 1
The Global Politics of Islam	PIR-40158	15	Semester 1
Quantitative Research and Data Analysis	GRT-40020	15	Semester 2
Qualitative Research Methods	GRT-40021	15	Semester 2
International Environmental Law	LAW-40043	15	Semester 2
Human Rights and Global Politics	LAW-40046	15	Semester 2
International Refugee Law	LAW-40058	15	Semester 2
Comparative European Politics	PIR-40096	15	Semester 2
Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the U.S.	PIR-40119	15	Semester 2
Maritime Security	PIR-40128	15	Semester 2
International Diplomacy	PIR-40136	15	Semester 2
Crises, Conflict and Diplomacy	PIR-40138	15	Semester 2
The geopolitics of nationalism and populism	PIR-40142	15	Semester 2
Post-conflict Development: Cases and Approaches	PIR-40146	15	Semester 2
Politics and security dynamics in the Middle East	PIR-40162	15	Semester 2

Students can also take as an optional module any modern foreign language (French, Spanish, German, Russian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese) at the selected level

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.

Level 7

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of and critically evaluate advanced scholarship and recent research in themes, issues, theories, and debates pertaining to the study of international development within the disciplines of international relations, critical security studies and/or law, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of academic discipline	All modules
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of and critically evaluate the techniques and methodologies applicable to research and advanced scholarship in the discipline of international development, as a field of international relations, critical security studies and/or law	All modules
Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, and practical understanding of how established techniques of research are used to create and to interpret knowledge in the discipline	All modules
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, different ways of conducting, and assumptions underpinning, advanced research in the discipline of international relations, as it pertains to the study of international development	Research in Action - PIR-40095 Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations - PIR-40144
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and creatively, independently and systematically apply, relevant research methods to a topic, question or questions in the field of international development	Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations - PIR-40144 Research in Action - PIR-40095
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, recent scholarship pertaining to the practices of power in the modern world and the varied relationships between environment, security, international relations and international development	All modules except language modules
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, recent scholarship concerning the international and (where relevant) local settings in which international development occurs, and the global conflicts, problems and challenges that shape to development	All modules except language modules
Advanced level knowledge and understanding of modern foreign language, at appropriate level, or English skills for academic practice at postgraduate level	Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1 - ENL-40001 Any modern foreign language as selected by skill level and choice

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Systematically and creatively assess the relationships between methods of and approaches to knowledge generation and interpretations of that knowledge in pathway specific themes, issues, theories and debates	All modules
Systematically apply research or methodological skills and knowledge in order further to advance knowledge of a chosen research area within the discipline	Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105
Demonstrate systematic understanding of, and awareness of how to apply, specific research methodologies, techniques and skills	Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations - PIR-40144 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Research in Action - PIR-40095
Demonstrate systematic understanding of how to apply research methods to tackle problems and questions in the academic discipline of international development	All modules
Demonstrate originality and creativity in the application and interpretation of knowledge	All modules
Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, using research techniques to plan and implement tasks at an advanced level	All modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate self-direction and originality in employing strategies to address problems, issues, theories of debates in the academic discipline of international development, as a field of international relations	All modules
Systematically evaluate complex issues and critically evaluate evidence and data to reach sound judgements, in the absence of complete data, about a chosen research topic or discipline specific area	All modules
Communicate appropriately through the use of higher-level writing skills, aimed at specialist and non-specialist audiences, with appropriate use of academic referencing	All modules
Communicate appropriately, convincingly and fluently, in oral presentation	Human Rights and Global Politics - LAW-40046 International Environmental Law - LAW-40043 International Diplomacy - PIR-40136 Foundations of Human Rights - LAW-40048 The international politics of war and memory - PIR-40156 Maritime Security
Demonstrate systematic improvement in skills in a modern foreign language; or improvement in skills for using English for academic practices, where appropriate	Modern foreign language English for academic practices

8. Final and intermediate awards

Master's Degree	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 40 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:

- Research report
- Reflective report
- Review
- Consultancy report
- Case study reconstruction plan
- Case study
- Research proposal
- Essays
- Briefing paper
- Podcast
- Presentations
- Project

The degree is primarily assessed through written work, mainly essays on particular topics, but also through specific critiques or commentaries on chosen topics, a case study, briefing paper and review. The written work enables assessment of the students' understanding of the module content, and also enables assessment of the student's analytical abilities, and of the students' evaluation of particular debates, source material or evidence. The case study provides in-depth analysis of a particular example of a chosen theme; the briefing paper enables

students to demonstrate their understanding of how to present policy-related problems to a sceptical audience.

Oral presentations further enable assessment of the student's spoken communication skills. Podcasts enable assessment of the students' ability to summarise academic debates for a lay audience, and to present it in a coherent and accessible way through an increasingly-used spoken form.

The research report, reflective report and dissertation facilitate assessment of the student's ability to select, apply and evaluate appropriate research methodologies to any chosen field of study. The research report and some presentations also enable students to work as part of a team and develop team working skills.

The independent research dissertation is assessed based on the student's demonstration of their ability to apply research methodologies critically to address research question or questions informed by research scholarship in the field of international diplomacy, critically to evaluate evidence and to reach independent judgements on the basis of their evaluations.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

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?

Each student is allocated a member of the programme team as an Academic Mentor. Meetings are arranged for the Mentee to meet with their academic mentor, normally face to face, to review overall progress. Extra meetings can be scheduled at the student's request, and academic mentors, as well as module co-ordinators, are on hand to give guidance with regard to the intellectual content of the degree programme, as well as to answer queries with regard to the development of students' written or oral assessments. Students receive written feedback on their assessed work, and are also encouraged to meet their module tutors to discuss any feedback on assessments; and students can consult their academic mentor or module co-ordinator any about feedback or academic issue about which they require further clarification.

The programme organises a staff-student voice committee, in which student representatives can discuss any areas of concern.

The university's language centre offers a range of services to students whose first language is not English, including language classes (credit and non-credit bearing), and one-to-one tutorials that offer individual language support with assignments.

The Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (KIITE) offers one to one support to help students develop their academic practice, be it academic reading, critical thinking, academic writing or presentation skills. This is delivered through Write Direction, a service which students can book online at their convenience.

A specialist postgraduate Student Experience and Support Officer (SESO) is also available through student services to support students with pastoral concerns.

The School of Social, Political and Global Studies (SPGS) also run a series of workshops aimed at supporting PGT

students. This includes a workshop on good academic practice, on services to support students, and on the development of career and future plans.

SPGS also facilitate 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 focused support.

14. Learning Resources

The main body of the course is developed through self-study materials, which comprise mainly traditional text based resources available in the library, through e-journals, and supported by, where appropriate, electronic resources accessed through the Keele Learning Environment. The latter resource is also used to enhance student support during the period of the course, in particular through SPGS's online study skills module, StudyWrite (e.g. referencing, avoiding plagiarism).

SPGS will usually run 1-2 or more designated study skills workshops with the assistance of the member of the university's student support team so as to strengthen student research skills, such as how to read and summarise academic scholarship, proper use of referencing systems, etc. SPGS also facilitate sessions with our subject librarian to enhance student skills in the finding and storing of subject specific reading resources, source material and data.

Students will have access to the study skills offered by the University through KIITE, including the opportunity to book a one-to-one session to enhance and develop academic study skills; and will have access to the resources offered by KIITE to improve self-study techniques and skills.

Students will also have the opportunity to attend research seminars and public talks offered by the School and university, for example, SPGS's Spotlight in International Relations series, Keele World Affairs, Keele Institute of Liberal Arts Grand Challenges lectures, and will usually have the opportunity to attend research seminars organised in the Faculty and School and also to participate in the student-led research symposia, for example the ILAS postgraduate conference.

Students also have the opportunity to use the resources of Keele Careers to enhance their understandings of opportunities open to them and how to enhance their engagement with them, and to book one-to-one sessions with a careers counsellor for dedicated support in pursuing their careers.

International students whose first language is not English will have a diagnostic language assessment by the Language Centre. Where a student is evaluated by the Language Centre as needing Academic English support via modules ENL-40001 or ENL-40002 Academic English for PG Students, the student is expected to take the recommended Academic English module as a module option contributing to the overall course credits (i.e. 15 credits of 180 credits) . Native or near-native English-speaking students may, as an alternative, normally take ONE semester 1 or 2 module in one of the languages offered by the Language Centre or a further subject-related (level 7) option module relevant to their research area.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

Each academic year, SPGS organize research seminars at which researchers present their work. Students are encouraged to attend to hear leading-edge research being conducted in a range of social science subjects, as well as cognate disciplines.

Students also have the opportunity to attend public talks offered by the School and University, including the Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences Grand Challenges lectures and Keele World Affairs, both of which attract big-name speakers. SPGS run a Spotlight in International Relations lecture series where notable alumni come to Keele to talk about their subsequent careers and issues in international relations, including international development.

16. Additional Costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and 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 MSc in International Development is designed to complement the University's Learning and Teaching assessment strategies, extending the University's emphasis on internationalisation, and on real-world applications of theoretical problems, in the postgraduate curriculum.

The programme's structure reflects the University's commitment to providing flexible learning environments for both recent graduates seeking to develop their subject specific and their transferable skills, to students with professional experience, and to students from a variety of backgrounds, international or domestic, with the aptitude or intention to enter professional service.

It aims to develop varied skills and capacities in a dynamic learning environment, using multi-media resources and drawing on significant research and teaching expertise, in a manner that complies with the Quality Assurance Agency's standards for higher Education programmes, such as its Framework for Higher Education Qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Specifically, the programme contains assessments that engage learners in different ways (presentations, different forms of written work for different purposes) and that enable students to preserve legacies of their work when progressing to the workplace. Employability is integrated into the programme through the tackling of specific real-world problems relevant to international development throughout the curriculum, and the assessing of students' engagement with those problems, and ways to meet them, in assessment. It is further enhanced by visiting speaker events. Global perspectives are at the heart of the programme. The programme explores global inequality and barriers to the peace and prosperity of the planet, and human life on it, which is inclusive by 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. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 17 July 2023

What's Changed

July 2023 - New module added: PIR-40162

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2023/24	HELEN PARR	18 April 2023	