

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 Diplomacy Postgraduate Diploma International Diplomacy Postgraduate Certificate International Diplomacy
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

This programme is aimed at students who wish to specialise at advanced level in the study of Diplomacy. Diplomacy is the foundation of all International Relations, and this programme draws on the long-standing expertise within the School of Social, Political and Global Studies to offer an innovative and intensive period of study on the theory and practice of Diplomacy.

It differs from other programmes in the UK and internationally because it combines a cutting-edge academic study of the theories underpinning contemporary diplomacy, with in-depth analysis of real-world diplomatic problems and how diplomats and other political or civil society actors have contended with them.

The University's strategic plan stresses the need to be 'global in outlook and international in action'. This programme inherently meets these challenges by examining and exploring key moments of international diplomacy in action, as states, individuals, groups and international organizations have grappled with crises, changes, competing constraints and pressures; and by exploring the ideas, influences, perspectives and emotions that form any diplomatic encounter. It examines global interactions and local environments, and it will give students an in-depth understanding of the discipline and practice of diplomacy, as an integral and central part of International Relations.

The programme is interdisciplinary, meeting the Faculty's strategic objectives to 'develop the School's focus on theoretically informed, evidence-based understandings of social problems' with a view to understanding and crafting potential solutions to those problems. Its core discipline is International Relations, but it draws also on historical and legal approaches, critical security studies and emerging fields such as emotions in international politics.

Students will graduate from the programme with a strong knowledge of diplomacy in theory and in action, and in traditional and non-traditional settings, and with a solid understanding of how to apply concepts, theories, and evidence-gathering strategies to the study of diplomacy in global politics. They will also gain social science research skills specific to the study of Politics and International Relations that will enable them to undertake an independent research project. In addition, they will have the option to enhance their English or their foreign language skills through choosing a module via the Language Centre.

The programme will equip students for a range of careers be it in the UK or further afield, particularly those in the diplomatic, civil or security services, or in international organizations, non-governmental organisations and civil society groups, and a range of related policy or research areas.

This programme will attract students, overseas or home, wishing to pursue specialist study in diplomacy as a field of International Relations. It also sustains the School's track-record of attracting overseas students with ambition to join the governments, civil or diplomatic services of their own countries. It will also appeal to practitioners, particularly from overseas, who aim to reflect on their own practice, deepen their knowledge base, and gain transferable research and study skills.

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are:

- To provide students with an intensive period of study in which they can specialize in International Diplomacy in a systematic and disciplined manner
- To provide students with in-depth grounding in core theoretical and practical aspects of International Diplomacy
- To provide students with the advanced level methods and skills needed to apply theories and concepts to key themes and debates in International Diplomacy
- To provide students with the advanced level methods and skills needed to critically analyse and evaluate key themes and debates in International Diplomacy, including how and why states or other international actors have conducted diplomacy in a variety of international settings
- To provide students with a thorough and rigorous grounding in research methods necessary to conduct independent study in the subject area of International Diplomacy
- To enable students to conduct an independent research project in the broad area of International Diplomacy
- To provide students will a course of advanced level study that will enable them to develop their own time management, independent working, and written and oral communication skills, as well as enhance their cooperative active learning and group work skills
- To provide students with the opportunities to develop their modern foreign language skills, or to develop their skills using 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:

- Demonstrate critical understanding of the core theoretical, conceptual, and methodological approaches

used in the study of International Diplomacy, as a field related to and connected with the disciplines of International Relations, Security Studies, Politics, Law, and History

- Demonstrate an advanced and critical understanding of the themes, issues, debates, and problems, both past and contemporary, that are central to the study and practice of International Diplomacy
- Demonstrate an advanced, rigorous understanding of research methodologies relevant to the field of International Diplomacy

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

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

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Systematically evaluate complex issues, including by critically assessing evidence and data to reach sound and accurate conclusions and judgments
- Demonstrate advanced level written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrate individual organizational and time management capabilities
- Demonstrate cooperative learning skills and group work skills
- If appropriate, advance their English language or foreign language skills

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable students to further develop their 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 one's studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment are designed to help students to become well-rounded postgraduates, capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life they engage in after their 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?

The programme is delivered through a combination of:

- In-depth lectures, sharing tutors' subject and research expertise with students, and, where appropriate, encouraging students to discuss approaches and issues
- Seminar discussions in which students share, discuss, and evaluate ideas, in ways structured or facilitated by tutors
- Group and individual presentations in which students put forward arguments and ideas
- An independent study project (dissertation), guided and supported by a supervisor with subject appropriate expertise
- Guided reading lists to advise the students' independent learning and assist them in preparing their assessments
- A range of electronic resources (accessed through the Keele Learning Environment) to further support students in their preparation for class and their independent study

Together these learning and teaching methods provide a structure for:

- The critical analysis of theories, concepts, and empirical evidence, and of the core issues and debates in International Diplomacy and in International Relations
- The development of research methods and skills required to conduct independent study in International Diplomacy
- Students to conduct their own independent study project (dissertation) in their chosen area of International Diplomacy
- The development of advanced level study skills, including time management, independent working, written

- and oral communication skills, and cooperative active learning and group work skills
- The development of a mutually supportive working atmosphere and peer network

In addition to these formal activities and resources, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk to or contact their module tutors and/or their Academic Mentors with any questions about their studies, any concerns or difficulties they may be facing, or any special learning needs they may have.

6. Teaching Staff

All the current teaching staff in SPGS with expertise in the fields of International Relations and/or Politics are available to contribute to teaching on the MSc in International Diplomacy, as either convenors of, or contributors to, compulsory modules and/or optional modules, or as prospective supervisors for the 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 MSc 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 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?

Credits

The programme requires 180 credits. This is made up of 120 credits from taught modules, and 60 credits from the dissertation.

Full-time and part-time registration

The MSc programme in International Diplomacy is offered either as a full-time degree, or a part-time degree. Students who are registered on a part-time basis should take 60 credits from taught modules in their first year, and 60 credits from taught modules in their second year. (Any variation in this balance must be authorized by the Programme Director.) Part-time students undertake their 60-credit dissertation in the second year of study, and submit this at the same time as the cohort of students in that second year.

Entry points

There will normally be two entry points: September and January. September-start students will take the semesters in this order: Autumn, Spring, and Summer. January-start students will take the semesters in this order: Spring, Summer, and Autumn.

Structure of programme and modules

The MSc in International Diplomacy is structured as follows:

- 3 compulsory modules (each of 15 credits), totalling 45 credits
- 5 optional modules (each of 15 credits), totalling 75 credits
- A 15,000-word dissertation (60 credits), on a chosen topic in the field of International Diplomacy

For full-time students the structure of the MSc programme is as follows:

	Autumn Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
Compulsory modules	PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits)	PIR-40136: International Diplomacy (15 credits)	PIR-40105 Dissertation (60 credits)
Optional modules	2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)	3 modules from the list below (3 x 15 credits)	

For part-time students the structure of the MSc programme is as follows:

	Autumn Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
YEAR 1			
Compulsory modules	PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits)	PIR-40136: International Diplomacy (15 credits)	
Optional modules	1 module from the list below (15 credits)	1 module from the list below (15 credits)	
YEAR 2			
Compulsory modules	PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits)		
	PIR-40105 Dissertation (60 credits) ----->		
Optional modules	1 module from the list below (15 credits)	2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)	

Compulsory modules

PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) - Semester 1. This module offers an advanced introduction to research design and evidence gathering in Politics and International Relations (including International Diplomacy), and an opportunity for students to design and conduct their own small-scale practical research project based on a topic of their own choosing. This module is key to the development of the students' research skills.

PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits) - Semester 1. This module provides students with a foundation in the mainstream philosophies and approaches to studying International Relations and International Diplomacy. It examines how scholars have approached the issues of what to study and how to study, and the ways in which these issues are bound up with historical and current power structures within the world.

PIR-40136: International Diplomacy (15 credits) - Semester 2. This module offers an advanced level introduction to the discipline of International Diplomacy, what it is, and how it has evolved. It provides an innovative exploration of the theories and practices underpinning International Diplomacy, and considers the varied settings in which diplomacy takes place.

PIR-40105: Masters Dissertation (60 credits). Students write a dissertation of 15,000 words on a topic of their choice within the field of International Diplomacy.

Optional modules

Note that the precise list of modules may vary in any given year, depending on availability.

Autumn Semester (Semester 1)
<i>PIR-40088: The Theory of Global Security</i> (15 credits). This module explores the main theoretical traditions through which security has been understood and examines contemporary problems of security and development.
<i>PIR-40093: The Changing International Agenda</i> (15 credits). This module offers an in-depth critical assessment of the development, change and nature of the international system.
<i>PIR-40106: Dimensions of Environmental Politics</i> (15 credits). This module provides students with an overview of key concepts, debates, processes and discourses that concern the political and international dynamics of the environment.
<i>PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict</i> (15 credits). This module provides an advanced level study of core theories and approaches to international development, focusing particularly on the relationships between international development, environmental change, and conflict.
<i>PIR-40156: The International Politics of War and Memory</i> (15 credits). This module examines why war happens, and how the politics of war memory influence and shape contemporary politics.
<i>PIR-40158: The Global Politics of Islam</i> (15 credits). This module addresses the international challenges of the politics of Islam.

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

LAW-40048: Foundations of Human Rights (15 credits). 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.

Spring Semester (Semester 2)

PIR-40096: Comparative European Politics (15 credits). 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), and explores the ways in which these structures, and the actors within them, interact.

PIR-40119: Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the US (15 credits). 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-40128: Maritime Security (15 credits). 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). 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). This module offers an exploration of the relationships between nationalism/populism and security from a geopolitical perspective. It focuses 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.

PIR-40146: Post-conflict Development: Cases and Approaches (15 credits). This module offers an in-depth exploration of how states can rebuild after conflict, focusing on real-world examples of development.

PIR-40162: Politics and Security Dynamics in the Middle East (15 credits). 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.

LAW-40043: International Environmental Law (15 credits). 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, and exploring current environmental global issues such as biodiversity loss, trade and environment, food security and climate change through specific treaty regimes.

LAW-40046: Human Rights and Global Politics (15 credits). 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.

LAW-40058: International Refugee Law (15 credits). This module provides an advanced level overview of key issues in international migration.

GRT-40020: Quantitative Research and Data Analysis (15 credits). This module delivers an introduction to the practices of quantitative social research, while also examining core principles.

GRT-40021: Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits). This module provides an introduction to qualitative social research by examining the kinds of work qualitative social researchers engage in, the questions they ask, the tools they use, and the impacts and benefits of qualitative research.

Across the whole programme

Students can also choose to take one modern foreign language module over the course of their programme, including Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian or Spanish. Modules are offered at various levels, ranging from absolute beginners, to intermediate, and to advanced level. The Language Unit will undertake an assessment of students' proficiency, based on their existing language qualifications and skills, and place them in the appropriate module. Only one foreign language module can be taken as part of the MSc programme.

International students whose first language is not English can also choose to take a module in Postgraduate English as an Academic Practice. The Language Unit will undertake a diagnostic language assessment to determine which module (ENL-40001 or ENL-40004 or ENL-40002) would be most suitable for the student. Only one Postgraduate English as an Academic Practice can be taken as part of the MSc programme.

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 Diplomacy	PIR-40136	15	Semester 2
Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	PIR-40105	60	Semester 2-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1	ENL-40001	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
International Development: Environment and Conflict	PIR-40152	15	Semester 1
The international politics of war and memory	PIR-40156	15	Semester 1
Islam and Global Politics	PIR-40158	15	Semester 1
Academic English for Postgraduate Students 2	ENL-40002	15	Semester 1-2
*ANY modern foreign language, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, as selected by skill level and choice	FRE-90007	15	Semester 1-2
Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1-B	ENL-40004	15	Semester 2
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
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

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 theories, themes, issues, and debates pertaining to the study of diplomacy within the discipline of International Relations	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, recent scholarship in the conduct, practice, and cultural underpinning of international diplomacy	The geopolitics of nationalism and populism - PIR-40142 Equality, Discrimination, Minorities - LAW-40047 Foundations of Human Rights - LAW-40048 The international politics of war and memory - PIR-40156 International Diplomacy - PIR-40136 Crises, conflict and diplomacy - PIR-40138
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, recent scholarship concerning the international settings in which international diplomacy occurs, and the global conflicts, problems and challenges that give rise to diplomacy	International Diplomacy - PIR-40136 Crises, conflict and diplomacy - PIR-40138 Politics and security dynamics in the Middle East - PIR-40162 International Refugee Law - LAW-40058 Human Rights and Global Politics - LAW-40046 International Environmental Law - LAW-40043 The international politics of war and memory - PIR-40156 Dimensions of Environmental Politics - PIR-40106 The geopolitics of nationalism and populism - PIR-40142 The Theory of Global Security - PIR-40088 The Changing International Agenda - PIR-40093
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, recent scholarship on the ways that different political regimes and/or international organizations shape and influence diplomacy in international and domestic settings	Politics and security dynamics in the Middle East - PIR-40162 Crises, conflict and diplomacy - PIR-40138 International Diplomacy - PIR-40136 Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the U.S. - PIR-40119 International Refugee Law - LAW-40058 Human Rights and Global Politics - LAW-40046 International Environmental Law - LAW-40043 The international politics of war and memory - PIR-40156 Dimensions of Environmental Politics - PIR-40106 The Changing International Agenda - PIR-40093
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, recent scholarship pertaining to the practices of power in the modern world, and the varied relationships between power, international relations and diplomacy	The Changing International Agenda - PIR-40093 The international politics of war and memory - PIR-40156 Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the U.S. - PIR-40119 International Diplomacy - PIR-40136 Crises, conflict and diplomacy - PIR-40138 Politics and security dynamics in the Middle East - PIR-40162 The Theory of Global Security - PIR-40088
Critically assess the significance and implications, and the practices and conduct of diplomacy in real-world global settings, and as a field of the discipline of International Relations	The Theory of Global Security - PIR-40088 The Changing International Agenda - PIR-40093 The international politics of war and memory - PIR-40156 Human Rights and Global Politics - LAW-40046 Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the U.S. - PIR-40119 International Diplomacy - PIR-40136 Politics and security dynamics in the Middle East - PIR-40162 The geopolitics of nationalism and populism - PIR-40142 Crises, conflict and diplomacy - PIR-40138

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, the methodologies and techniques applicable to research and advanced scholarship in the academic discipline of diplomacy, as a field of International Relations	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate practical understanding of how established techniques of research are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline of International Relations, as it pertains to the study of international diplomacy	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate advanced level knowledge and understanding of a modern foreign language, at appropriate level, or English skills for academic practice at postgraduate level	Foreign languages module, or English as an Academic Practice module

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, and practical understanding of how established techniques of research are used to create and interpret knowledge in the field of International Diplomacy, as a part of the discipline of International Relations	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Critically evaluate evidence and data in the field of international diplomacy, and the discipline of International Relations, to reach sound and accurate judgements	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and ability to creatively and independently apply, relevant research approaches, methods and skills to a topic and question(s) in the field of international diplomacy, as a part of the discipline of International Relations	Research in Action - PIR-40095 Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations - PIR-40144 Quantitative Research and Data Analysis - GRT-40020 Qualitative Research Methods - GRT-40021 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105
Systematically apply research or methodological skills and knowledge in order further to advance knowledge of a chosen research area in the field of international diplomacy	Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105

Intellectual skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate originality and creativity in the application and interpretation of knowledge	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate systematic understanding of how to apply research methods to examine problems and questions in the academic discipline of diplomacy as a field of International Relations	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, using research techniques to plan and implement tasks at an advanced level	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
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	International Diplomacy - PIR-40136 All optional modules, where appropriate
Systematically evaluate complex issues and critically evaluate evidence and data to reach sound and accurate conclusions and judgements	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate self-direction and originality in employing strategies to address problems, issues, theories, and/or debates in the academic discipline of diplomacy, as a field of International Relations	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate systematic improvement in skills in a modern foreign language; or improvement in skills for using English for academic practices, where appropriate	Foreign languages module, or English as an Academic Practice module

8. Final and intermediate awards

MSc in International Diplomacy

To be awarded an MSc in International Diplomacy students must accumulate 120 credits of taught modules (comprised of: the three compulsory modules (Research in Action; Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations; and International Diplomacy) and five optional modules (all of 15 credits each); and complete the 15,000-word dissertation (60 credits).

Postgraduate Diploma in International Diplomacy

A student can be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma if they successfully accumulate 120 credits. This is achieved by gaining credits from taught modules. Dissertation credits are excluded from the award of a Postgraduate Diploma.

Postgraduate Certificate in International Diplomacy

A student can be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate if they successfully accumulate 60 credits. This is achieved by gaining credits from any combination of taught modules - be they compulsory or optional modules. Dissertation credits are excluded from the award of a Postgraduate Certificate.

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

This programme makes use of a wide variety of assessment methods. This reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that students develop as they progress through their degree programme. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on the programme:

- Essays
- Commentaries on an analytical or methodological approach
- Critiques on chosen topics
- Reflective research reports
- Reports on a case study
- Briefing papers
- Reviews of diplomatic act/performance
- Individual or group oral presentations
- Podcasts
- Dissertation

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, students may contact or meet with individual staff to discuss questions or areas of concern.

Assignments assess the students' understanding of the module content, as well as their analytical abilities,

including their capacity to evaluate particular debates, material and/or evidence. Written assessments enable an assessment of the students' written communication skills, while oral presentations and podcasts allow for an assessment of their spoken communication skills. Reflective research reports and the dissertation facilitate assessment of the students' 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 students can improve the quality of their work.

Students are also supported in the preparation of their dissertation through a formative assessment. In the spring they will attend a number of workshops on dissertation research (as part of the dissertation module PIR-40105), and in the last of these they will be asked to deliver a short oral presentation on their proposed dissertation. Then they will be asked to write a research proposal for their dissertation, which is formatively assessed, and for which they will receive written feedback from their dissertation supervisor.

The workshops, oral presentation, and formatively assessed research proposal together contribute to the guidance that students receive as they develop their independent research dissertation. Further guidance is received from dissertation supervisors. The dissertation is then assessed on the basis of the student's demonstration of their ability to select an appropriate research topic and research question, demonstrate wide and critical understanding of the scholarship in their field, critically apply an appropriate research design and methodology, employ a relevant research method as appropriate, and critically evaluate evidence, to go on to reach sound independent judgements based on their evaluations.

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/>

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will sit a diagnostic language assessment. Using this assessment, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

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 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 Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (KIITE) also offers one-to-one support to help students develop their academic practice, be it in 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.

The School of Social, Political and Global Studies (SPGS) 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.

SPGS 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, SPGS organises 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 (including International Diplomacy), as well as in cognate disciplines.

Students also have the opportunity to attend public talks offered by the School and the University. These include SPGS's Spotlight in International Relations series where notable alumni come back to Keele to talk about what they have gone on to do; the renowned Keele World Affairs lectures, and Keele Institute of Liberal Arts Grand Challenges lectures, both of which attract big-name speakers.

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 Diplomacy 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 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.

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	LIZ CARTER	18 April 2023	
1	2022/23	HELEN PARR	31 October 2022	
1	2021/22	HELEN PARR	31 October 2022	