Postgraduate Courses in
Politics and International Relations
I had a great experience studying as a postgraduate international student in Leicester. The lecturers on my International Relations and World Order course were not only really helpful and approachable but they were also experts in their fields. One of the best things about studying at the University of Leicester as a postgraduate student was the number of facilities available specifically for postgraduates including a postgraduate only study area in the library, career services targeted to postgraduates that you can use even after you graduate, and dedicated postgraduate teaching rooms away from the main campus. Also while I was writing my dissertation I was able to use the extensive links that the University of Leicester has to access books from around the country and use the library facilities of a wide range of institutions. As an international student studying in a foreign country Leicester is a great city to live in. Not only is it safe but it is also one of the most multicultural and welcoming cities in the UK as well as affordable for student budgets!

Faria, MA International Relations and World Order, 2014-15
Welcome to the Department of Politics and International Relations

The Department of Politics and International Relations collaborates with politicians, special advisers, think-tanks and academics from around the world to develop new ways of understanding the political and ethical dimensions of a range of key issues in contemporary global politics and international relations.

Postgraduate Degrees in Politics and International Relations

Our postgraduate degrees are an excellent way to enhance your expertise and career prospects.

The Department of Politics and International Relations at Leicester has a long tradition of providing academically exciting and innovative postgraduate taught courses, and we have a successful track record in supervising doctoral research. We pride ourselves on having a friendly and open department with an experienced group of academics committed to excellence in teaching and research. Recently, the department has enjoyed a period of development and expansion, as dynamic new academics have joined our team. They are all experts in their fields, allowing us to offer exciting specialist modules.

Whether you are interested in a taught postgraduate course or doctoral research, as a postgraduate in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Leicester you will find yourself in a friendly and lively academic community.

The University of Leicester is one of the largest providers of taught campus-based and distance learning postgraduate degrees in the UK, and has established itself as a prominent member of the international academic community with worldwide links in teaching and research. In short, as a postgraduate student you will have the opportunity to study with a major research university.

Above all, we seek to make postgraduate study in Politics and International Relations at Leicester an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Our aim is to share with you our enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity about the politics of the world in which we live.

We look forward to welcoming you to Leicester and to the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Kelly Staples,
Director of Taught Campus MA Programmes
Why study with the Department of Politics and International Relations at Leicester?

- **Teaching Excellence**: Several of the Department’s academics and support staff have been awarded the Leicester Students’ Union ‘Superstar Award’ for their dedication and commitment to teaching and improving the student experience.

- **Research Innovation**: The Department’s academics play leading roles in cutting edge global research networks, bringing you the latest and most up to date information.

- **Opinion Forming Policy Impact**: The Department’s academics actively advise and engage with global policy communities, civil society, the media and public.

- **Research Excellence**: Programmes designed and delivered by widely published, research active academics who are passionate about their teaching.

- **Everything You Need To Succeed**: Discover led modules, a vibrant and diverse postgraduate student community, excellent learning support, advice on employability and pastoral care throughout your studies.

**Our Campus Courses**

We offer three taught postgraduate degrees on campus. The following degrees are offered full or part-time.

- MA International Security
- MA International Relations and World Order
- MA Human Rights and Global Ethics

*Please note: Our part-time campus based routes are available for Home/EU students only.*

**A Contemporary Approach**

Our postgraduate programmes are designed to equip you to face the challenges of understanding the politics of today’s world.

Our Intelligence, Security and Strategic Studies cluster has international expertise in intelligence, UK foreign policy, strategic studies and arms proliferation. The Parties, Participation and Public Opinion cluster conducts internationally rated research on Euroscepticism and immigration, and parties, participation and public opinion in Europe, the US, South Africa and elsewhere. The Global Ethics and Political Theory group has exceptional expertise in challenges to traditional liberal thought, centred on issues such as slavery, gender, statelessness, children and animals.

Our research combines outstanding theory with vital research into a range of empirical issues.

Our students learn and participate in a highly stimulating environment, and graduate with degrees combining expert insight with a range of highly valued transferable skills. There is a strong emphasis on independent thinking about critical contemporary issues.
Programme Detail and Structure

Duration
Our campus-based MA degrees can be taken over one year full-time or two years part-time.

Start Dates
Our campus-based degrees start in September of each year.

Course Structure
The structure of each MA course is as follows:

- One Core Module.
- Three Option Modules.
- One Dissertation Module – 12-15,000 words.

During your dissertation you will be assigned an academic advisor who will support and guide you through the process of designing and writing up your research.

Programme Structure

MA Campus-Based Structure

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<th>FIRST SEMESTER</th>
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<td>Core Module</td>
<td>Two Option Modules</td>
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<td>Plus One Option Module</td>
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<td>Research-Based Dissertation</td>
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MA in Human Rights and Global Ethics

This course is designed to:

- equip you with a detailed understanding of human rights and global ethics.
- achieve a balance between a thorough exploration of the theoretical dimensions of human rights and the consideration of relevant empirical issues, for example the ethics of intelligence, contemporary slavery and the nature of citizenship.
- provide you with the competencies and skills to understand contemporary debates in human rights and global ethics and to analyse politics and international relations using a mixture of normative, theoretical and empirical tools.

Course Detail

Recent protests and social movements have advanced a range of political claims to human rights. The global economic crisis is one part of the growing range of ethical, social and political issues that cannot be resolved by states acting alone. Human rights and global ethics are therefore increasingly vital areas of study.

Over recent years the idea of human rights has become a central issue in international politics, much of which can no longer be fully understood without an understanding of the politics of human rights. The MA addresses these concerns from the perspective of their global political context.

This course provides a thorough grounding in the political and international theory of human rights and global ethics. On this course, you will be exposed to different theoretical and political perspectives on human rights. You will have the chance to study in depth the global political context of pressing ethical issues. The course combines study of the main theories and concepts related to human rights and global ethics with detailed empirical analysis of issues such as intelligence, slavery, citizenship, refugees, animal rights, security and war.

The course is designed to equip graduates with knowledge and skills relevant to employment and career development in government, media, business, NGOs, and any professional context in which cross-cultural sensitivity and ethical awareness is a requirement.

Course Structure

You must complete the The Politics of Human Rights core module plus a further three option modules from the selection on pages 12 to 13.
MA in International Relations and World Order

**This course is designed to:**

- equip you with a detailed understanding of contemporary international relations.
- achieve a balance between a thorough exploration of the theoretical dimension and the consideration of empirical issues and practical debates in post-Cold War international relations.
- provide you with the competencies and skills to understand contemporary debates in international relations and to analyse international relations using a mixture of theoretical and empirical tools.

**Course Detail**

The sudden collapse of the governing international order that came about with the end of the Cold War has conditioned much of the thinking in international relations over the past two decades. The concept of a “New World Order” has caused considerable debate amongst policymakers and scholars. This course looks at a range of international issues but especially seeks to investigate whether International Relations in the post-Cold War period has been founded upon a “Western” model of World Order.

The degree aims to introduce differing concepts of Order in the post-Cold War world. It is designed to make you think critically about the nature of international relations: about the extent to which Western interests, institutions and culture dominate the world system and the challenges, responses and resistances generated by that dominance. There is an emphasis upon both theoretical and empirical approaches to this subject.

**Course Structure**

You must complete the Post-Cold War World Order core module plus a further three option modules from the selection on pages 12 to 13.
MA in International Security

This course is designed to:

- equip you with an understanding of key issues in contemporary international security.
- achieve a balance between breadth and depth of study in contemporary international security by providing you with a coherent mixture of theoretical and empirical study.
- provide you with competencies and skills to understand contemporary international security problems and to be able to analyse international security problems using a mix of theoretical and empirical tools.

Course Detail

This course provides a thorough grounding in international security, focusing on developments since the end of the Cold War. As the events of 11th September 2001 and the subsequent Global War on Terror promulgated by the world’s lone superpower illustrate with shocking clarity, international security remains a vital issue on the global agenda. The search for a stable and just international security order has proven elusive, with war and armed conflict continuing in many parts of the world.

At the same time, international security involves much more than states and military conflict. International security problems often stem from complex political, economic, environmental, social and cultural causes, and involve a broad range of non-state actors. The study of security in the contemporary international system thus poses a series of challenging intellectual questions and policy dilemmas, which this course will help you address in an informed and creative manner.

The distinctive feature of this course is the way it seeks to integrate two elements: first, the theoretical and conceptual challenges involved in studying international security; and second, the main empirical problems and issues on the contemporary international security agenda. In addition, you will be encouraged to think about the way the security agenda varies in different regions of the world, such as Europe and the Middle East.

Course Structure

You must complete the International Security core module plus a further three option modules from the selection on pages 12 to 13.
Core Modules

Your core module will be determined by the MA route you choose (see individual course entries for details). However, you may choose one further core module from the list below to act as an option module.

Option Modules – up to three from:

- International Security
- Post-Cold War World Order
- The Politics of Human Rights
- America and the World: The Making of US Foreign Policy
- American Interventionism since 1993
- The British Way of Warfare: Counter Insurgency since 1945
- Governance and Corruption
- Human Rights, Ethics, and Intervention in Action
- Public Opinion and Foreign Policy

All modules are subject to availability.

Entry Requirements

Either a first or good second class honours degree from a British University or its equivalent in

- Politics
- History
- Law
- International Relations (or other related subjects)

In certain cases, equivalent relevant professional experience will be considered.

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to have a qualification such as the British Council International English Language Testing System (score 6.5 or above) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (score 90/575).
Module Descriptions

Core Modules

International Security
Issues of security and insecurity are central to international relations, as the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the Iraq War of 2003 underline. This module provides you with a thorough grounding in the theory and practice of international security in the contemporary era. It examines the main theoretical and conceptual approaches to the study of international security, before considering a range of contemporary security issues including: the emergence of a zone of stable peace in Europe; the violent break up of Yugoslavia; ‘New Wars’ in the South; terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; the Iraq War and the future of the Middle East; and the prospects for peace and security in the Twenty-First Century.

This module thus provides you with the analytical tools to think critically and independently about the nature of contemporary international security, focusing on developments since the end of the Cold War.

Post-Cold War World Order
This module critically examines the means by which the West maintains its concept of Order. It will begin by considering the relationship between order and justice in international relations before moving on to consider the idea of a ‘New World Order’ and assessing its originality. The position of the United States as the sole superpower after the Cold War will be examined and the ability of the US to imprint its model of Order globally will be evaluated. The module will analyse the way Western interests are upheld through concepts of security, the international economic system and international institutions such as the United Nations. A variety of challenges to this Western concept of order will be examined, including those from other parts of the world as well as from various parts of the academic community.

The Politics of Human Rights
This module provides students with a thorough grounding in human rights, allowing students to explore their nature and development and their relationship to the state and world politics. It considers competing explanations and justifications of human rights and their recognition, and examines their paradoxical nature. Students will also consider the relationship between human rights and citizenship rights, as well as the practical, theoretical and ethical constraints on the achievement of human rights. They will be exposed to theory and analysis that is at the forefront of debates about how we should live, and about what rights people, groups and states can legitimately claim.
We’re shedding new light on multi-party politics in Britain.

How will you make your mark?

In the first academic study of its kind, researchers from our Department of Politics and International Relations examined the attributes and attitudes of UKIP candidates and voters at the 2010 general election. The diversity of characteristics and concerns they identified challenge the perception that UKIP is simply a single-issue party or the ‘Tory party in exile’.

Discover more: www.le.ac.uk/discover
Option Modules

Campus-based students on our MA degrees will take three optional modules, one in semester one and two in semester two, from the list below. Please note that all modules are subject to the availability of our specialist staff.

America and the World: The Making of US Foreign Policy
The primary aim of the module is to give students grounding in the issues and ideas surrounding American foreign policy in the contemporary era. The opening session will explain the historical context of America’s present world role. We will also discuss the processes by which US foreign policy is made, and the dominant themes associated with US policy. These include America’s status as the ‘leading’ power in the international system, the effect of 9/11 and the War on Terror and the overall aims of US foreign policy, particularly with regard to promoting democracy.

American Interventionism since 1993
The module examines American foreign policy since the end of the Cold War and specifically the reasons for American intervention, or non-intervention, in international affairs. It starts by analysing early ideas about how the post-Cold War world would develop. It then moves on to consider the actions and policies of President Bill Clinton. The module then considers the actions of President George W. Bush and in particular looks at the US response to the 9/11 attacks and the war in Iraq. The module concludes by asking whether there has been a significant change of foreign policy direction under President Obama.

The British Way of Warfare: Counter Insurgency since 1945
The examples of Iraq and Afghanistan have brought the concept and practice of ‘counter insurgency’ back to the forefront of security studies. This module sets counter insurgency (CI) in historical context by examining previous case studies and also relating these to the political context of the UK at the time. The experience of CI is also important for other issues it raises, for example the role of the local political context of CI, the issue of human rights and the changing framework of international accountability. Some of the issues the module covers are more narrowly focused such as the use and effectiveness of certain techniques (‘winning hearts and minds,’ the use of intelligence and the use of specialist units).
Governance and Corruption

‘Corruption is the single greatest obstacle to global economic and social development. It distorts the rule of law and weakens the institutional foundation on which economic growth depends’ (World Bank). The problem of corruption – in all its different guises and contexts – is not a new one. Corruption has existed in all societies, for as long as humans have conferred authority on rulers there has always been the threat that those rulers will use that authority for personal, rather than public, advantage. After the end of the Cold War, corruption saw a growing interest among academics and political practitioners. The objective of this module is to shed light on the concept, its measurement, causes and effects by developing analytical and theoretical tools that will allow us to analyse corruption across both time and space.

Human Rights, Ethics and Intervention in Action

This module aims to provide an understanding of ethical and political theory governing human rights, global ethics, and intervention. The module gives students the chance to engage with debates around cosmopolitan duties, just war theory, the moral status of human rights regimes, and global justice. The module aims to provide a solid understanding of these issues through engagement with real world case studies and in-depth discussion.

Public Opinion and Foreign Policy

This module sets out to identify and explain national and cross-national variations in public opinion across different issues and case studies including anti-Americanism, EU Foreign and Security Policy, Israel and the Middle East and Nuclear weapons. The module will see us critically evaluate the nature and extent of the role that public opinion plays in the making and implementing of foreign policy in modern democracies. In seminars we will critically analyse and conceptualise public opinion and the forces that act upon it and that it acts upon.
How much study time will I need?
Each module lasts for one semester (12 weeks) and normally involves two hours of teaching per teaching week. Full-time students are required to complete four modules by the end of the second semester and, for those progressing to the MA, to submit their dissertation by the end of September.

How will I be assessed?
Assessment is through a mixture of:

- Essays
- Seminar papers
- Dissertation (12-15,000 words)

What facilities will I have access to?
You will have access to a number of computing facilities across the University campus. Campus computer systems are also linked to the Internet. The University’s David Wilson Library contains over one million books and publications and obtains extensive numbers of research journals that are vital to the field of politics and international relations. The Library receives Official UK Government Publications and it is a European Documentation Centre.

The on-campus teaching experience will offer a variety of stimulating approaches to teaching.
Supporting Your Studies

Study Support
Whether returning to education or continuing with your studies straight from undergraduate level, there is always scope to refresh, extend and develop your academic skills. Learning Development runs workshops, provide resources and offer one-to-one consultations to help you maximise your academic potential. www.le.ac.uk/succeedinyourstudies

Dyslexia or Disability Support
The AccessAbility Centre provides pre-entry discussions or visits to discuss your support requirements, assistance with Disabled Students’ Allowance Applications; space to work or rest, and specialist equipment and study support resources. Each department has an AccessAbility tutor who can advise you and further details of support can be found at www.le.ac.uk/accessability.

International Students
The International Office can provide all the information you need about applying for a course at the University of Leicester and can advise on Scholarships, English Language programmes and acceptability of international qualifications. The International Office can be contacted via their webpage at www.le.ac.uk/international.

The Graduate School
The Graduate School provides a University-wide framework for training, study support and career preparation, helping postgraduate students achieve their potential. All of our postgraduate students are members of the University’s Graduate School.

Financial support
It is important that you have enough funds to cover the full cost of your course and living expenses before you start so you need to begin your research into possible funding as soon as possible. The Graduate Admissions Office can provide further information about funding postgraduate study.
Careers or Further Study

Further Study
You are encouraged to consider further research after you graduate. The Politics and International Relations Department offers supervision for the research degrees of MPhil and PhD. There is a healthy community of doctoral research students studying a wide variety of topics. Doctoral work often leads to employment in research-related areas and to University lecturing. For information on the research interests of our staff please see our website at www.le.ac.uk/politics.

Careers
Our Careers Service is dedicated providing guidance and support throughout your time with us and there is a huge range of programmes and opportunities to help you get ahead in your chosen career, or enhance or reshape your existing role.

Build on your talents and add to your CV with the employability programmes offered by the Careers Service such as the Leicester Award for Employability. This scheme offers accredited training and development courses in Leadership and Management, Business and Enterprise and Community Engagement.

For general advice you can visit the Careers Service or access their website and make the most of their superb resources and personalised careers guidance at any point.

You can take part in one-to-one careers consultations, workshops and webinars, covering interview and assessment centre skills, psychometric testing, CV and covering letter workshops and much more.

There are seminars designed to give insights into specific career paths or professions, guest speakers from employers and regular careers fairs, giving you the chance to make contacts and find out more. www.le.ac.uk/careers

Past Students
Graduates of our postgraduate courses now work in foreign services and government departments worldwide, at the UN Headquarters, and for the EU. Others have gone into careers in law, the Civil Service, the police, banking, journalism, management consultancy, librarianship and teaching.
How to Apply

Applying by Post
Completed application forms together with evidence of your qualifications and ability to fund your studies should be sent direct to the Postgraduate Admissions Office (see below).

Please send:
- Application form
- Copies of qualification certificates/transcripts
- Proof of English language competency for those applicants whose first language is not English
- Two completed reference forms – these should be passed to your referees for completion and returned with the application form

Applying online
You can apply online via the University’s website at www.le.ac.uk/study/pgprospectus.

Supporting documents can be uploaded or posted to the address below. Here is a checklist of supporting documents that you will need to send:
- Copies of qualification certificates/transcripts
- Proof of English language competency for those applicants whose first language is not English
- Two completed reference forms

Send all campus-based supporting documents to:
Postgraduate Admissions Office
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
United Kingdom

Enquiries
The Postgraduate Admissions Secretary
Department of Politics and International Relations
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
United Kingdom

t: +44 (0)116 252 2714
e: politicspg@le.ac.uk
w: www.le.ac.uk/politics
Postgraduate student life

Campus
On our bustling compact campus it’s impossible to walk from one end to the other without bumping into someone you know along the way. The campus is a vibrant community, with all manner of places to meet, eat and drink, as well as study. We’re committed to providing you with high quality facilities and resources that meet the needs of modern and ambitious postgraduate students.

Students’ Union
Our Students’ Union provides a welcoming and friendly environment for all students, as well as outstanding facilities.
At the heart of the Students’ Union (SU) is the Square – a huge atrium and terrace area – it’s the perfect place for relaxing and catching up with friends.
Throughout the year, all manner of social and academic-related events are arranged – fundraising activities, health awareness campaigns, fashion shows, charity events and, of course, a superb nightlife.
As a postgraduate you are encouraged to make your voice heard. Annual elections select members of the Students’ Union Executive, which oversees the Union’s strategic and political direction. And being a part of a society is a sure way of getting involved in the University community.

Accommodation
Our accommodation for postgraduates comprises a variety of packages so you can choose a place to live that suits you and your budget.
Private accommodation is available through our lettings agency, SUlets.

Sports Facilities
You can enjoy a workout, take a swim or build up a sweat in a fitness class at our modern sports centres on campus or at Manor Road. You can also get involved with our sports clubs, which welcome members of all abilities. Keen competitors can also represent the University through Team Leicester, the hotly-contested Varsity matches and our thriving Intramural events.

Library
The award-winning £32 million David Wilson Library is a light, airy, five-storey building providing state-of-the-art facilities. We invest over £6 million per year in the Library. Self-service loan and return, group study rooms, hundreds of PCs, netbook loans, wireless access throughout, a staffed Help Zone in the Library and online, 24/5 opening during term time, plus a bookshop and café create a first-class study environment. There is access to a digital library of over 50,000 electronic journals and 500,000 eBooks – as well as over one million printed volumes. Our digital library can be accessed from anywhere you have an internet connection. Postgraduates benefit from a dedicated PC zone, group study rooms, as well as the Graduate School Reading Room for formal and informal study.

Our Librarians provide detailed advice on finding and using information, and help you make the most of the resources available in the Library and on the web. You can also use our online guides to finding information for your research or coursework.

Attenborough Arts Centre
The Attenborough Arts Centre is the University’s own arts centre, offering a vibrant programme of events and exhibitions in its new gallery and performance spaces. There are special discounts for students. Or if you just want a break from your studies you can enjoy free lunchtime music performances or have a drink at the café.

Whatever you’re into there will be a society for you – there are over 200 at Leicester. The Students’ Union is home to groups in sport, media, politics, performing arts, music, volunteering, fundraising, plus the specialist and zany.
The City of Leicester

Leicester is a lively and diverse city and the tenth largest in Britain. It has all the activities and facilities you would expect, with a friendly and safe atmosphere. The city centre is just a short walk from campus so you'll never be far from the action.

Leicester’s diverse heritage is reflected in a dazzling array of festivals and cultural experiences including one of the largest Diwali celebrations outside India, the UK’s longest running Comedy Festival and the University’s hugely successful book festival – Literary Leicester.

Recent developments have led to the opening of the world-class Curve Theatre and Phoenix Square Independent Arts Centre in the new Cultural Quarter, which complement Leicester’s existing array of cinemas, theatres, museums and galleries.

Leicester is a city of sporting excellence. Sports fans can enjoy Premier League football with Leicester City and watch top-class rugby at Welford Road, home of the mighty Leicester Tigers. The Leicester Riders are a formidable presence in the British Basketball League (BBL), and during the summer months, Leicestershire County Cricket Club competes in the county championship and T20 Blast competition.

The sparkling Highcross complex features 110,000 square metres of retail therapy, bars, cafés and restaurants. For those with independent tastes Leicester Lanes houses a variety of boutiques and specialist shops.

As you would expect from a true student city, there is a huge range of bars, clubs and live music venues that cater for all kinds of tastes. Food lovers are treated to a fantastic selection of restaurants, with specialities available from every corner of the world.

“Sports fans can enjoy Premier League football with Leicester City and watch top-class rugby at Welford Road, home of the mighty Leicester Tigers.”
For more information
Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Leicester,
University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

t: +44 (0)116 252 2702
f: +44 (0)116 252 5082
e: politics@le.ac.uk
w: www.le.ac.uk/politics

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This brochure was published in February 2016. The University of Leicester endeavours to ensure that the content of its prospectus, programme specification, website content and all other materials are complete and accurate. On occasion it may be necessary to make some alterations to particular aspects of a course or module, and where these are minor, for example altering the lecture timetable or location, then we will ensure that you have as much notice as possible of the change to ensure that the disruption to your studies is minimised.

However, in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary for the University to cancel or change a programme or part of the specification more substantially. For example, due to the unavailability of key teaching staff, changes or developments in knowledge or teaching methods, the way in which assessment is carried out, or where a course or part of it is over-subscribed to the extent that the quality of teaching would be affected to the detriment of students. In these circumstances, we will contact you as soon as possible and in any event will give you [30 days] written notice before the relevant change is due to take place. Where this occurs, we will also and in consultation with you, offer you an alternative course or programme (as appropriate) or the opportunity to cancel your contract with the University and obtain a refund of any advance payments that you have made.