

**1. Programme Title(s):**

MA in International Relations and World Order

Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations and World Order

\*approved as exit awards only

**2. Awarding body or institution:**

University of Leicester

**3. a) Mode of study**

Part-time

**b) Type of study**

Distance learning

**4. Registration periods:**

The normal period of registration is two years (25 months).

The maximum period of registration is four years.

**5. Typical entry requirements:**

Either a first or a good second class honours degree from a British university or its equivalent in Politics, History, International Relations or other related subjects. In certain cases, equivalent relevant professional experience will be considered.

Where English is not a candidate's first language, applicants will be required to provide evidence of appropriate language skills, equivalent to IELTS 6.5.

**6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

None.

**7. Programme aims:**

The overall aim of the programme is to provide a comprehensive understanding of contemporary international relations. By providing a thorough grounding in the subject, students are made aware of the importance of this topic to a sophisticated understanding of global political developments.

The programme also aims to:

- 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 students 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.

**8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:**

The programme has been developed with reference to the following sources:

- QAA Benchmarking statement for Politics and International Relations  
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf>
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

- University of Leicester Learning Strategy:  
<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach>
- University Employability Strategy
- Periodic Developmental Review Reports (February 2014)

## 9. Programme Outcomes:

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(a) Subject and Professional skills</b>			
<b>Knowledge</b>			
MA	Recognise, describe and discuss a wide range of important themes and issues in post-Cold War international relations	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Recognise, describe and discuss the major themes and issues in post-Cold War international relations	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Identify and explain the major themes and issues in post-Cold War international relations	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
<b>Concepts</b>			
MA	Discuss, analyse and appraise a wide range of international relations concepts and theories and relate and apply these to empirical practices and developments	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Discuss, analyse and appraise the major international relations concepts and theories and relate these to empirical practices and developments	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Explain and assess key concepts and theories and relate these to empirical practices and developments	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
<b>Techniques</b>			
MA	Masterful application of key theories and concepts, research methods, and learnt skills in referencing and appropriate written and verbal communication	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Confidently apply key theories and concepts and learnt skills in referencing and appropriate written and verbal communication	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Apply key theories and concepts and learnt skills in referencing and appropriate written and verbal communication	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays

	<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
<b>Critical analysis</b>			
MA	Analyse relevant concepts and practices with independence and rigour, including in an extended research-based dissertation	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Analyse relevant concepts and practices with independence and rigour	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Independently analyse relevant concepts and practices	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
<b>Presentation</b>			
MA	Organise and present research material in a range of formats, including an extended research-based dissertation; develop arguments drawing on relevant material; write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Organise and present research material in a range of formats; develop arguments drawing on relevant material; write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays
PGCert	Organise and present relevant material; develop arguments drawing on material read; write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays
<b>Appraisal of evidence</b>			
MA	Confidently and persuasively assess the relevance and evaluate the quality of a range of primary sources and secondary literature.	Guided private study; independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Confidently and persuasively assess the relevance and evaluate the quality of a range of primary sources and secondary literature.	Guided private study; independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Appraise the relevance and quality of a range of appropriate sources	Guided private study; independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
<b>(b) Transferable skills</b>			
<b>Research skills</b>			
MA	Design appropriate research questions; develop research proposal; discuss the ethical implications of research; recognise and create effective literature reviews. Conceive and produce an independent research-based dissertation.	Formative study/research skills modules (1-4); dissertation supervision; directed reading	Research skills module activities; dissertation outline; literature review; dissertation
PGDip	Design appropriate research questions; develop research proposal; discuss the ethical implications of research; recognise and create effective literature reviews.	Formative study/research skills modules (1-3); directed reading	Research skills module activities; research design outline; literature review

	<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
PGCert	Design appropriate research questions; develop research proposal; discuss the ethical implications of research	Formative study/research skills modules (1 & 2); directed reading	Research skills module e-tivities; research design outline
<b>Communication skills</b>			
MA	Summarise, explain and analyse complex material, and formulate and present critical discussions and independent appraisals orally and in writing, including in an extended research-based dissertation	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; electronic seminar/forum; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays; dissertation; participation in on-line activities
PGDip	Summarise, explain and analyse complex material, and formulate and present critical discussions and independent appraisals orally and in writing	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; electronic seminar/forum; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays; participation in on-line activities
PGCert	Summarise and explain complex material, and formulate and present discussions and appraisals orally and in writing	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; electronic seminar/forum; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays; participation in on-line activities
<b>Data presentation</b>			
MA	Synthesise research data into coherent and sustained arguments using appropriate IT resources	Online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum; independent research	Essays; dissertation
PGDip	Synthesise research data into coherent and sustained arguments using appropriate IT resources	Online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum; independent research	Essays
PGCert	Present research data using appropriate IT resources	Online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum; independent research	Essays
<b>Information technology</b>			
MA	Confidently and effectively retrieve, utilise and present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives, data analysis software	Induction; online resource-based learning; e-tivities	Use of Blackboard and participation in on-line activities; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Retrieve, utilise and present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives	Induction; online resource-based learning; e-tivities	Use of Blackboard and participation in on-line activities; essays
PGCert	Retrieve and present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives	Induction; online resource-based learning; e-tivities	Use of Blackboard and participation in on-line activities; essays
<b>Problem solving</b>			
MA	Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Guided private study; online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum	Essays; dissertation; participation in on-line activities
PGDip	Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Guided private study; online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum	Essays; participation in on-line activities
PGCert	Identify and analyse relevant problems and select between appropriate responses	Guided private study; online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum	Essays; participation in on-line activities

	<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
<b>Working relationships</b>			
MA	Collaborate confidently and effectively as part of a team. Identify appropriate opportunities for drawing on the knowledge and expertise of others; contribute and comment on ideas in learning groups	Electronic seminar/forum; dissertation supervision	Participation in on-line activities: message boards and Wikis
PGDip	Collaborate effectively as part of a team. Identify appropriate opportunities for drawing on the knowledge and expertise of others; contribute and comment on ideas in learning groups	Electronic seminar/forum	Participation in on-line activities: message boards and Wikis
PGCert	Collaborate as part of a team. Identify appropriate opportunities for drawing on the knowledge and expertise of others; contribute and comment on ideas in learning groups	Electronic seminar/forum	Participation in on-line activities: message boards and Wikis
<b>Managing learning</b>			
MA	Develop and implement personal plan of work to meet a deadline  Work independently and in groups towards the completion of a range of tasks	Non-core module e-tivities; guided independent study; personal tutor system; dissertation supervision	Participation in online activities; essays; dissertation; Personal Development Planning
PGDip	Develop and implement personal plan of work to meet a deadline  Work independently and in groups towards the completion of a range of tasks	Non-core module e-tivities; guided independent study; personal tutor system	Participation in online activities; essays; Personal Development Planning
PGCert	Develop and implement personal plan of work to meet a deadline  Work independently and in groups towards the completion of a range of tasks	Non-core module e-tivities; guided independent study; personal tutor system	Participation in online activities; essays; Personal Development Planning
<b>Career management</b>			
MA	Take charge of one's own progress and development  Reflect on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognise one's achievements	Non-core module e-tivities; personal tutor system; PDP training (on-line)	Participation in online activities; Personal Development Planning
PGDip	Take charge of one's own progress and development  Reflect on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognise one's achievements	Non-core module e-tivities; personal tutor system; PDP training (on-line)	Participation in online activities; Personal Development Planning
PGCert	Take charge of one's own progress and development  Reflect on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognise one's achievements	Non-core module e-tivities; personal tutor system; PDP training (on-line)	Participation in online activities; Personal Development Planning

**10. Special features:**

The programme is designed to build on the university's Learning Innovation Strategy, and is subject to on-going collaborative development with the Leicester Learning Institute. The programme is based on a social constructivist learning model.

**11. Indications of programme quality:**

- Number one politics department in the 2009 and 2010 National Student Surveys;
- Considerable departmental experience in e-learning as a result of the development and success of our existing DL programmes;
- Presentations from current students and former students at national and international conferences;
- Regular progression of former students into academic posts and postdoctoral and research projects;
- Consistent, positive feedback from current and former students;
- Consistent positive feedback from external examiners.

**12. Scheme of Assessment**

Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study applies:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes>

**13. Progression points**

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study](#)

Board of Examiners in February and August will confirm that students have satisfactorily completed the requirements (in accordance to the relevant scheme of assessment) to progress to the dissertation.

**14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:**

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study](#)

**15. Additional information [e.g. timetable for admissions]**

N/A

**16. External Examiners:**

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

**Appendix 1: Programme structure** (programme regulations)

For the award of MA, students must complete four 30 credit taught modules and a 12-15,000 word dissertation worth 60 credits. For the exit award of Postgraduate Diploma students must complete four 30 credit taught modules, and for the exit award of Postgraduate Certificate, two 30 credit taught modules.

<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Core or Optional</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PL7508	Post Cold War World Order	C	30
PL7503	MA Dissertation	C	60
PL7500	American Interventionism after the Cold War	O	30
PL7501	Democracy & Legitimacy in the European Union	O	30
PL7502	Diplomatic Systems	O	30
PL7504	Intelligence & Security	O	30
PL7505	International Security	O	30
PL7509	The Art of Negotiation	O	30
PL7515	Theories of International Relations	O	30
PL7521	The International Politics of Protection	O	30
PL7587	EU Enlargement and Democratic Consolidation in Post-Communist Europe	O	30
PL7589	The Politics of Human Rights	O	30
PL7591	Strategy in the Modern World	O	30
PL7593	Governance and Corruption	O	30
PL7594	The Politics of European Integration	O	30
PL7595	Euroscepticism	O	30
PL7530	The Politics of Conflict and Violence	O	30
PL7531	Gender in Global Perspective	O	30
PL7532	The Transformation of Modern Warfare	O	30
PL7533	The Politics of Global Nuclear Order	O	30
PL7534	The Politics of Violent Conflict and its Legacies in Northern Ireland	O	30
PL7596	Europe as a Global Actor	O	30
PL7597	Political Economy of International Development	O	30

**Appendix 2: Module Specifications**

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>