Programme Specification Document

Approved, 2022.02

Overview

Programme Code	36488
Programme Title	International Relations
Awarding Institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Programme Type	Masters
Programme Leader	
Link Tutor(s)	Matthew Hill

Partner Name	Partnership Type
Unicaf	Validated

Awards

Award Type	Award Description	Award Learning Outcomes
Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Certificate - PC	Display a critical awareness of political, historical and legal aspects of international relations. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of debates that inform an appreciation of International Relations, International Relations theory and related subjects. Draw upon knowledge of the ways in which theories and concepts have developed in particular contexts in their assessment of relevant issues and debates. Demonstrate a detailed and critically informed knowledge and understanding of the role and contribution of state and non-state actors in shaping international politics. Engage critically with theories and concepts relating to International Relations and put them to productive use. Develop substantive and detailed knowledge and understanding in one designated areas of the field(s). Engage with new and emerging forms and arguments, drawing upon a variety of professional and academic skills. Conduct advanced forms of research for essays involving sustained independent enquiry. Propose, design, conduct and present sustained independent research at an advanced level that will demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of International Relations related issues. Appreciate how diverse audiences and communities engage in the discussion of International Relations at local, regional, national and international levels. Manage time and resources effectively, by drawing on planning and organisational skills. Work in a flexible and independent way, showing self-discipline and reflexivity. Plan and implement tasks in a professional manner. Retrieve and generate information, and critically evaluate sources, in carrying out independent research. Communicate ideas at an advanced level, deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and adapting a problem-solving approach demonstrating professionalism.
Target Award	Master of Arts - MA	See Learning Outcomes Below

Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Diploma - PD	Display a critical awareness of political, historical and legal aspects of international relations. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of debates that inform an appreciation of International Relations, International Relations theory and related subjects. Draw upon knowledge of the ways in which theories and concepts have developed in particular contexts in their assessment of relevant issues and debates. Demonstrate a detailed and critically informed knowledge and understanding of the role and contribution of state and non-state actors in shaping international politics. Display an ability to critically reflect upon their research and, if relevant, professional practice. Engage critically with theories and concepts relating to International Relations and put them to productive use. Consider and critically evaluate their own work in a reflexive manner with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions. Develop substantive and detailed knowledge and understanding in one designated area of the field(s). Engage with new and emerging forms and arguments, drawing upon a variety of professional and academic skills. Conduct advanced forms of research for essays involving sustained independent enquiry. Propose, design, conduct and present sustained independent research at an advanced level that will demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of International Relations related issues. Understand the limits of the major research methods associated with the study of International Relations, and be able to apply this knowledge critically to their own work. Appreciate how diverse audiences and communities engage in the discussion of International Relations at local, regional, national and international levels. Manage time and resources effectively, by drawing on planning and organisational skills. Work in a flexible and independent way, showing self-discipline and reflexivity. Plan and implement tasks in a professional manner. Retrieve and generate information, and critically evaluate sources, in carrying out independent research Communicate ideas at an advanced level, deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and adapting a problem-solving approach demonstrating professionalism

Alternate Award Names	

External Benchmarks

Subject Benchmark Statement	

Programme Offering(s)

Mode of Study, Mode of Delivery	Intake Month	Teaching Institution	Programme Length
Part-Time, Distance Learning	April	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	August	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	December	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	February	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	January	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	July	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	June	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	March	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	May	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	November	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	October	Unicaf	5 Year
Part-Time, Distance Learning	September	Unicaf	5 Year

Aims and Outcomes

Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme is innovative and challenging because it provides a multidisciplinary approach to examining international relations. The programme will critically engage with theoretical approaches to International Relations in order to better understand the world. To further aid understanding of the world, the programme will critically examine in-depth issues of enduring international significance, including: conflict, the role of multilateral institutions, US foreign policy, state-building in the colonial and post-colonial world, and the role of humanitarian actions by state and non-state actors. The programme will enable students to carry out original and independent research through developing research methodologies appropriate to the study of International Relations. The programme will provide networking opportunities to increase the opportunity of obtaining employment in a related field. It is why a series of fieldtrips and expert practitioner workshops will be held throughout the year, along with developing internship opportunities for students.

Learning Outcomes

Code	Description
PLO1	Display a critical awareness of political, historical and legal aspects of international relations.
PLO2	Conduct advanced forms of research for essays, projects, or dissertations involving sustained independent enquiry.
PLO3	Propose, design, conduct and present sustained independent research at an advanced level that will demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of International Relations related issues.
PLO4	Understand the limits of the major research methods associated with the study of International Relations, and be able to apply this knowledge critically to their own work.
PLO5	Appreciate how diverse audiences and communities engage in the discussion of International Relations at local, regional, national and international levels.
PLO6	Manage time and resources effectively, by drawing on planning and organisational skills.
PLO7	Work in a flexible and independent way, showing self-discipline and reflexivity.
PLO8	Plan and implement tasks in a professional manner.
PLO9	Retrieve and generate information, and critically evaluate sources, in carrying out independent research.
PLO10	Communicate ideas at an advanced level, deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and adapting a problem-solving approach demonstrating professionalism.
PLO11	Demonstrate an advanced understanding of debates that inform an appreciation of International Relations, International Relations theory and related subjects.
PLO12	Draw upon knowledge of the ways in which theories and concepts have developed in particular contexts in their assessment of relevant issues and debates.
PLO13	Demonstrate a detailed and critically informed knowledge and understanding of the role and contribution of state and non-state actors in shaping international politics.
PLO14	Display an ability to critically reflect upon their research and, if relevant, professional practice.
PLO15	Engage critically with theories and concepts relating to International Relations and put them to productive use.
PLO16	Consider and critically evaluate their own work in a reflexive manner with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions.
PLO17	Develop substantive and detailed knowledge and understanding in one or more designated areas of the field(s).
PLO18	Engage with new and emerging forms and arguments, drawing upon a variety of professional and academic skills.

Programme Structure

Programme Structure Description

The programme is taught and assessed within the Academic Framework. Students must take 180 credits of modules at Level 7. Students will be registered for one module at a time and must complete the whole programme within 5 years.

Programme Structure - 180 credit points	
Level 7 - 180 credit points	
Level 7 Core - 180 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 7500IRUIC Understanding International Relations Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7501IRUIC Research Methods for International Relations Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7502IRUIC Research Project in International Relations Approved 2022.01 - 60 credit points	
[MODULE] 7503IRUIC The War/Peace Cycle Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7504IRUIC War and Peace in Africa since 1990 Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7505IRUIC Conflict and Warfare in International Law Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7506IRUIC International Human Rights Law Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
Level 7 Optional - No credit points	OPTIONAL

Module specifications may be accessed at https://proformas.ljmu.ac.uk/Default.aspx

Approved variance from Academic Framework Regulations

Variance
Students will be eligible for a Final Module Attempt (FMA) once they have failed the first and referral attempt of a module. Students will not have to wait until all the assessment opportunities from the taught element of the programme have been exhausted. (approved 03/11/2022)

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The programme has an integrated teaching, learning and assessment strategy. The assessment strategy for the programme is underpinned by appropriate learning and teaching strategies which are relevant and provide a structured set of learning opportunities enabling achievement, of individual module, and programme level, learning outcomes. Please see Curriculum Map for specific details. Critical awareness is achieved through online interaction, case studies, group discussions and individual reading and research. A blended learning approach will be adopted on the programme with resources to support learning provided Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Integration and synthesis across the programme lead to the programme's intended learning outcomes. These are assessed through a variety of formative and summative assessment including: assessed presentations, essays, research based exercises, critical review, research plan, and a dissertation. Specific details of these can be found in the module guides. International Relations students will be encouraged to engage in secondary research. Active learning in a constantly changing world provides an opportunity for reflection and critical literacy. Online interaction will act as a guide to the area of study and will focus on conceptual frameworks, areas or case studies. In online study students will be expected to work both collegially and independently. The nature of online study is intended to be interactive and group activities will be a significant part of student led and defined discussion. Students will be provided with opportunities to strengthen their skills and communicate within an academic community in a professional manner. They will be supported throughout the programme to formulate ideas and responses to past and current debates and research so that they can develop an advanced understanding of the field and apply these ideas appropriately. The assessment strategy provides a structure of assessment through which students can meet the intended learning outcomes of the programme. Students' skills are assessed through the self-direction, innovation and judgement required to complete research essays and the dissertation. The relationship between formative and summative assessment enables tutors to provide feedback which will support students in their development and enable them to make the most of their academic potential. Students are required to consider different means of communicating their research findings, formulate their response to critical issues and contemporary and past debates, and evaluate contemporary trends across a range of different types of assessment. Online activity independent study and research and the production of assessments all contribute to the development of professional practical skills. There will be particular focus on the research design of the dissertation and its management and critique in tutorials. The extent to which students have developed these skills will be assessed through essays, reports, critical reflection and the dissertation. Students will be introduced to the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and be encouraged to use it. Online activity, case studies will allow them to observe and discriminate between different perspectives, communication strategies and understand the responsibilities of academic research. These professional skills will be assessed through essay and the dissertation project.

Entry Requirements

Type	Description
Other international requirements	Where English is not a first language, an IELTS score of 6.0 (with a minimum score of 5.5 in each subcomponent) is required or international equivalent. Where English proficiency cannot be established otherwise, the Unicaf English Placement Test (EPT) score of 6.0 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each subcomponent) is acceptable.
Alternative qualifications considered	All applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability to benefit from and contribute to the programme. Generally applicants should have a 2:2 Honours degree or above in any subject or international equivalent. Applications from non-standard applicants are welcomed who can demonstrate relevant work experience of at least 2 years in an IR related field and an ability to succeed at the MA level.