

Overview

Programme Code	36780
Programme Title	International Relations
Awarding Institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Programme Type	Masters
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Programme Leader	Matthew Hill
Link Tutor(s)	Peter O'Reilly

Partner Name	Partnership Type
Beaconhouse Group	Franchised

Awards

Award Type	Award Description	Award Learning Outcomes
Target Award	Master of Arts - MA	See Learning Outcomes Below
Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Certificate - PC	<p>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 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. 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.</p>

Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Diploma - PD	<p>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.</p>
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Alternate Award Names	
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External Benchmarks

Subject Benchmark Statement	
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Programme Offering(s)

Mode of Study, Mode of Delivery	Intake Month	Teaching Institution	Programme Length
Full-Time, Distance Learning	September	Beaconhouse IC Distance Learning	1 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 by holding a series of expert workshops throughout the year.

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 demonstrates 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.

Code	Description
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

International Relations does not have a Master's degree subject benchmark statement. Moreover, there are no Master's statements related to IR. As a consequence the benchmark statement has been developed from the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement (February 2020), and the Honours undergraduate degree Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations (2019). The programme is taught and assessed within the Academic Framework. Students must take 180 credits of modules at Level 7. For full-time students the programme should normally be completed in one academic year. Modules are of two types: Core or Option. For full-time MA students, in the first semester they take the core Understanding International Relations (7500BCIRD 30 credits) and the Research Methods for International Relations (7501BCIRD 10 credit) modules as well as one 20 credit optional module. In the second semester, full-time students have to take the core 20 credit Critical Security Studies (7513BCIRD) module along with two 20 credit optional modules. The 60 credit Research Project in International Relations (7502BCIRD) module is yearlong. Optional modules are clustered. In the first semester, students have an option of taking either an International Relations module or a Law module. In the second semester, students have to take two optional modules. Students have to take at least one of the International Relations optional modules to complete this programme.

Programme Structure - 180 credit points	
Level 7 - 180 credit points	
Level 7 Core - 120 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 7500BCIRD Understanding International Relations Approved 2022.01 - 30 credit points	
[MODULE] 7501BCIRD Research Methods for International Relations Approved 2022.01 - 10 credit points	
[MODULE] 7502BCIRD Research Project in International Relations Approved 2022.01 - 60 credit points	
[MODULE] 7513BCIRD Critical Security Studies Approved 2023.01 - 20 credit points	
Level 7 Optional - 60 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 7504BCIRD War and Peace in Africa since 1990 Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7526BCIRD Conflict and Warfare in International Law Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7531BCIRD The United Nations, International Security & Global Justice Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7537BCIRD International Human Rights Law Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7503BCIRD The War/Peace Cycle Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 7510BCIRD International Politics and Development in Asia-Pacific Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	

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

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. Critical awareness is achieved through online interactive lectures, case studies, student presentations, seminars and discussion and individual reading and research. An online learning approach will be adopted on the programme with resources to support learning provided via the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment).

One-to-one sessions with staff and research project supervisions alongside workshops and expert sessions will be available. 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. International Relations students will be encouraged to engage in both primary and secondary research, and through networking events talk to practitioners and experts about their experiences and research. Active learning in a constantly changing world provides an opportunity for reflection and critical literacy. Lectures will act as a guide to the area of study and will focus on conceptual frameworks, areas or case studies. In workshops and seminars students will be expected to work both collegially and independently. The nature of the seminars and workshops 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 presentation 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, presentations 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.

Lectures, workshops, seminars, independent study and research, presenting work 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. Students will develop an awareness of professional skills in discussion with practitioners in the expert workshops. The extent to which students have developed these skills will be assessed through essays, presentations, reports, critical reflection and the dissertation. Students will be introduced to the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). They will have Personal Development Planning tutorials and ICT will be provided. Seminars, lectures, case studies and interaction with practitioners 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 oral presentation, essay, and the dissertation.

Entry Requirements

Type	Description
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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 or above from an Honours degree in a related subject; Law, History or Politics. Although most applicants will be graduates in a related field, the fact that candidates may not have a relevant degree is not necessarily a bar to entry. 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.
Other international requirements	Bachelors of Arts Honours degree from Pakistani Universities minimum at 1st Division (60% & above) Where English is not a first language, an IELTS score of 6.5 must be achieved, with a minimum of 7.0 in academic writing.

Extra Entry Requirements