

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Science, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Politics; Master of Science, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations; Master of Science, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in International Public Policy; Master of Science, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in International Security; Master of Science, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Media, Power and Public Affairs; and Master of Science, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Elections, Campaigns and Democracy;**

This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2017**.

The aims of the programmes are:

- to provide a systematic understanding and knowledge of theories, institutions, and practices in the disciplines of politics and international relations generally and in specific sub-disciplines related to individual programme streams in particular;
- to encourage a critical awareness of current problems and developments in political science and international relations generally and in specific sub-disciplines related to individual programme streams in particular;
- to provide theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the creation and interpretation of knowledge in politics and international relations and to the critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship in that field;
- to provide training in research techniques in the field of study;
- to foster an independent learning ability required for continuing professional development;
- to develop key communications, IT and management skills relevant for postgraduate work.

The programmes are delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or up to five years of part-time study (260 weeks). Teaching takes place during the day over two terms from September to April. The dissertation is submitted in September. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, each programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Progression and award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

This document provides a summary of the main features of the programmes, and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programmes are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of key concepts, theoretical debates, and developments applicable to the specific field;
- a sound knowledge of the texts, theories and methods used to enhance understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena associated with particular fields of politics and international relations;
- an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of research methods within the disciplines of politics and international relations;
- knowledge of advanced scholarship in the chosen area of the discipline to a level appropriate for an MSc degree.

Skills and other attributes

- the ability to evaluate relevant critical, theoretical and contextual research at the forefront of the field;
- the ability to articulate knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories at an advanced level, demonstrating self-direction and originality;
- the ability to assess the nature and value of a wide variety of source materials – including, where appropriate, academic commentaries, research-based literature, official publications and statistics, journalistic sources, political biographies – and make effective use of such materials;
- the ability to develop their own lines of criticism and argument;*
- the ability to conduct research independently at an advanced level using traditional and electronic resources;*
- the ability to assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies;*
- the ability to develop reasoned and balanced arguments;*
- the ability to manipulate precise and intricate ideas, construct logical arguments and use technical terminology correctly;*
- the ability to deal with complex issues, both systematically and creatively, and make sound judgments;*
- the ability to identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems;*
- the ability to communicate complex information and ideas effectively, both orally and in writing;*
- the ability to write up a substantial dissertation project, using the appropriate methodological and bibliographical skills;*

In addition, the programmes foster the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthens our postgraduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability; creativity.

* transferable skills

[Back to top](#)

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is delivered primarily by means of seminar discussions, informal lectures, oral presentations, guided independent research, and guided independent study. Assessment takes the form of various formative and summative assignments, including, in the case of some courses, an unseen written exam. The final assignment for each MSc programme is a dissertation on a topic developed in consultation with an assigned supervisor. It is expected that the dissertation will be researched and written primarily in the summer months, although supervision and dissertation training will begin during the academic year. Full details of assessments, including submission schedules and marking criteria, can be found in the Programme Handbook. Particular teaching and learning methods and specific assignments for each course are written into the various course outlines. Full details of individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

For students first registered in or after September 2017

Version 3.2

21/04/2017

[Back to top](#)

Details of the programme structures

The full-time programme is one year (52 weeks) and begins in September.

The brief outline of each programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook. **Credits are indicated in brackets, and indicate proportional weighting towards the MA, PGDip and PGCert classification grade.**

Each programme covers a wide array of sub-disciplines in politics and international relations. In addition to common mandatory courses for each programme, each programme also has particular required courses and options.

Please note that the list of available courses offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

MSc Politics

This programme is ideal for those seeking a broad-based advanced grounding in contemporary political science.

Mandatory (20 credits each)	Mandatory Course (20 credits)	Options (20 credits each)	Dissertation. (60 credits)
<p>Students must take at least 1 from the following courses:</p> <p>PR5923 Theories and Qualitative Approaches in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>PR5921 Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p>	<p>PR5427 The Politics of Democracy (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must choose at least 3 from the following options (to make a total of 120 credits including mandatory methods and mandatory courses):</p> <p>PR5424 Internet and New Media Politics (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5936 Contemporary Anglo-American Political Theory (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5938 Social Media and Politics (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5916 Human Rights (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5941 British Political Parties (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5944 Elections and Voting Behaviour (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5942 Political Participation and Public Opinion (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5943 International Public Policy (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5422 Media, Power and Public Affairs (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5429 Comparative Politics (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must undertake a dissertation on an aspect of democracy, politics and governance</p>

The programme structure for the PGDip is as above, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation and must pass courses to the value of 120 credits to include at least one of either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and PR5427 The Politics of Democracy (20 credits) and optional courses totalling 60-80 credits. For the PG Cert students must pass courses to the value of 60 credits to include at least one of either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and PR5427 The Politics of Democracy (20 credits).

For students first registered in or after September 2017

Version 3.2

21/04/2017

MSc in International Relations

This programme is ideal for those interested in key issues in international affairs and theories and concepts of International Relations.

Mandatory methods (20 credits)	Mandatory courses (20 credits)	Options (20 credits each).	Dissertation. (60 credits)
<p>Students must take at least 1 from the following courses:</p> <p>PR 5921 Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>PR5923 Theories and Qualitative Approaches in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must take the following course:</p> <p>PR5432 Analysing International Politics (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must choose at least 2 from the following options (to make a total of 120 credits including mandatory methods and mandatory courses)</p> <p>PR5907 Media, War and Conflict (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5924 Transnational Security Studies (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5916 Human Rights: From Theory to Practice (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5424 Internet and New Media Politics (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5928 Transnational Security and the Law of Targeting (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5908 United States Foreign Policy (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5937 Understanding Defence (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5809 European Union Politics and Policy (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5931 The Law of Cyber Warfare (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5939 Non-State Violence as a Challenge to Security (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5938 Social Media and Politics (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5911 Sovereignty, Rights and Justice (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5945 Revolutions and Rebellion in International Politics (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must undertake a dissertation on an aspect of international relations</p>

The programme structure for the PG Dip is as above, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation and must pass courses to the total value of 120 credits to include either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and PR5432 Analysing International Politics. For the PG Cert students must pass courses to the total value of 60 credits to include at least one of either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and PR5432 Analysing International Politics (20 credits).

MSc in International Public Policy

This programme is ideal for those interested in a broad-based advanced grounding in international public policy.

Mandatory methods (20 credits)	Mandatory Courses (20 credits)	Options (20 credits each).	Dissertation. (60 credits)
<p>Students must take at least 1 of the following courses:</p> <p>PR 5921 Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>PR5923 Theories and Qualitative Approaches in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must take the following courses:</p> <p>PR5432 Analysing International Politics (20 credits)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>PR5943 International Public Policy (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must choose at least 2 from the following options (to make a total of 120 credits including mandatory methods and mandatory courses)</p> <p>PR5916 Human Rights: From Theory to Practice (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5928 Transnational Security and the Law of Targeting (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5937 Understanding Defence (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5809 European Union Politics and Policy (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5939 Non-State Violence as a Challenge to Security (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5944 Elections and Voting Behaviour (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5945 Revolutions and Rebellion in International Politics (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5427 Politics of Democracy (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5908 United States Foreign Policy (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5924 Transnational Security Studies (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must undertake a dissertation on an aspect of international public policy</p>

The programme structure for the PGDip is as above, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation and must pass courses to the total value of 120 credits to include either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) or both and in addition the following mandatory courses PR5432 Analysing International Politics (20 credits) and PR5943 International Public Policy (20 credits). For the PG Cert students must pass courses to the total value of 60 credits to include at least one of either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and both PR5432 Analysing International Politics (20 credits) and PR5943 International Public Policy (20 credits).

MSc International Security

The core of the programme traces the security studies discipline from its traditional approaches through its evolution to include ever more transnational dynamics. The degree will provide students with both a firm academic foundation in the security studies discipline as well as a base of knowledge for careers in fields of policymaking, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and more.

Mandatory methods (20 credits)	Mandatory Courses (20 credits)	Options (all 20 credits)	Dissertation (60 credits)
<p>Students must take at least 1 from:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5912 Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5923 Theories and Qualitative Approaches in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must take the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5924 Transnational Security Studies (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must choose options from the following courses to make a total of 120 credits including mandatory methods and mandatory courses:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5937 Understanding Defence (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5939 Non-State Violence as a Challenge to Security (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5916 Human Rights: From Theory to Practice (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5928 Transnational Security and the Law of Targeting (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5908 United States Foreign Policy (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5931 The Law of Cyber Warfare (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5911 Sovereignty, Rights and Justice (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5943 International Public Policy (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5907 Media, War and Conflict (20 credits)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PR5945 Revolutions and Rebellion in International Politics (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must undertake a dissertation on an aspect of International Security</p>

The programme structure for the PGDip is as above, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation and must pass courses to the total value of 120 credits to include either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and the following mandatory courses PR5924 Transnational Security Studies (20 credits) and PR5945 Revolutions and Rebellion in International Politics(20 credits).For the PG Cert students must pass courses to the total value of 60 credits to include at least one of either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and the following mandatory courses: PR5924 Transnational Security Studies (20 credits) and PR5945 Revolutions and Rebellion in International Politics (20 credits).

MSc Media, Power and Public Affairs

For those seeking to understand the interplay between digital new media and communication technologies, political institutions, behaviour and public policy, with emphases on citizen engagement, mobilization, campaigning, and the role of new media in the global system.

Mandatory Methods (20 credits each)	Mandatory courses (20 credits)	Options (20 credits each).	Dissertation (60 credits)
<p>Students must take at least 1 from the following:</p> <p>PR 5921 Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>PR5923 Theories and Qualitative Approaches in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must take:</p> <p>PR5422 Media, Power and Public Affairs (20 credits)</p> <p>Plus at least one of the following:</p> <p>PR5907 Media, War and Conflict (20 credits)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>PR5938 Social Media and Politics (20 credits)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>PR5424 Internet and New Media Politics (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must choose from the following courses to make a total of 120 credits including mandatory methods and mandatory courses:</p> <p>PR5427 The Politics of Democracy (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5944 Elections and Voting Behaviour (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5908 US Foreign Policy (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5916 Human Rights: From Theory to Practice (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5936 Contemporary Anglo-American Political Theory (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5924 Transnational Security Studies</p> <p>PR5945 Revolutions and Rebellion in International Politics (20 credits)</p> <p>PR5928 Transnational Security Studies and the Law of Targeting</p> <p>PR5918 Comparative Political Executives</p> <p>PR5427 Politics of Democracy</p> <p>PR5943 International Public Policy</p> <p>PR5941 British Political Parties</p> <p>PR5942 Participation and Public Opinion</p>	<p>Students must undertake a dissertation on an aspect of new political communication.</p>

For students first registered in or after September 2017

Version 3.2

21/04/2017

The programme structure for the PGDip is as above, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation and must pass courses to the total value of 120 credits to include either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and at least two of the following mandatory courses PR5422 Media, Power and Public Affairs; PR5424 Internet and New Media Politics; PR5907 Media, War and Conflict; and PR5938 Social Media and Politics. For the PG Cert students must pass courses to the total value of 60 credits to include at least one of either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and at least two of the following mandatory courses PR5422 Media, Power and Public Affairs; PR5424 Internet and New Media Politics; PR5907 Media, War and Conflict; and PR5938 Social Media and Politics.

MSc in Elections, Campaigns and Democracy

This programme is ideal for those interested in how political parties work, approach elections, campaigning and democracy.

Mandatory methods (20 credits)	Mandatory Courses (20 credits)	Options (20 credits each)	Dissertation (60 credits)
<p>Students must take at least 1 from the following courses:</p> <p>PR 5921 Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>PR5923 Theories and Qualitative Approaches in Politics and IR (20 credits)</p>	<p>Students must take the following:</p> <p>PR5944 Elections and Campaigning (20 credits)</p> <p>Plus at least one of the following:</p> <p>PR5942 Analysing Public Opinion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>PR5956 Political Leaders and Democratic Politics</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>PR5XXX Rejuvenating Politics: New Trends in Political Participation <i>(Please note: available from 2018/19 only)</i></p>	<p>Students must choose from the following courses to make a total of 120 credits including mandatory methods and mandatory courses:</p> <p>PR5941 British Political Parties PR5427 Politics of Democracy PR5918 Comparative Political Executives PR5429 Comparative Politics PR5916 Human Rights: From Theory to Practice PR5936 Contemporary Anglo-American Political Theory PR5931 The Law of Cyber Warfare PR5809 European Union Politics and Policy PR5911 Sovereignty, Rights and Justice PR5938 Social, Media and Politics PR5424 Internet and New Media Politics PR5422 Media, Power and Public Affairs</p>	<p>Students must undertake a dissertation on an aspect of elections, campaigns and/or democracy.</p>

The programme structure for the PGDip is as above, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation and must pass courses to the total value of 120 credits to include either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits), PR5944 Elections and Campaigning (20 credits) and at least one course between PR5942 Analysing Public Opinion, PR5956 Political Leaders and Democratic Politics, and PR5XXX Rejuvenating Politics: New Trends in Political Participation (*Please note: available from 2018/19 only*). For the PG Cert students must pass courses to the total value of 60 credits to include at least one of either PR5923 Qualitative Methods (20 credits) or PR5921 Quantitative Methods (20 credits) and PR5944 Elections and Campaigning (20 credits).

Part-time programme structure

The part-time programme normally lasts two years (104 weeks), beginning in September of year one. Part-time students normally complete their mandatory courses in the first year and take their option courses in the second year, submitting their dissertation at the end of the second year.

Postgraduate Diploma

The programmes are also offered at Postgraduate Diploma level (full- and part-time), whose structure is identical except that students do not write a dissertation. Students who are successful on the Diploma may transfer to the MSc subject to academic approval; alternatively, the Diploma may be awarded to MSc students who choose not to do the dissertation or who fail that component of the programme.

[Back to top](#)

Progression and award requirements

Progression throughout the year(s) is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework.

Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

For further information on progression and award requirements, please refer to the [Postgraduate Taught Regulations](#).

[Back to top](#)

Student support and guidance

- The Programme Director meets with the students on a regular basis to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. The Programme Director acts as a point of contact for pastoral support and any questions about the programme throughout the year.
- Course coordinators, tutors and dissertation supervisors provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- All students are allocated a Personal Tutor, with whom they can meet as required, to discuss all matters relating to their programme and for pastoral support.

In addition, students on these programmes have:

- Induction programmes for orientation and introduction to the Department and College by the Director of Graduate Studies.
- All staff available and accessible through an office-hour system.
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee.
- Detailed MSc handbook and course booklets.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College and University libraries, as well as the Computer Centre.
- Dedicated Departmental computing facilities.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Employability Lead officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre, Students' Union and students with additional learning needs also have access to Disability and Dyslexia Services (DDS).

[Back to top](#)

Admission requirements

For details of admission requirements please refer to the [Course Finder](#)

[Back to top](#)

Further learning and career opportunities

The MSc provides a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research, and graduates of programmes offered by the department have gone on to more advanced research degrees at Royal Holloway and elsewhere. There are PhD opportunities in the department, which has a vibrant and growing research student community. The MSc and Postgraduate Diploma also provide graduates with a range of intellectual, personal and social skills that are transferable to a wide variety of employment opportunities. Careers which will especially suit politics and international relations graduates include work in the civil service, local government, public and private sector management, political research and lobbying, teaching, and journalism and the media. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers & Employability Service](#).

[Back to top](#)

Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 3* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4* or 3* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This result placed Royal Holloway 31st overall in the UK for 4* and 3* research and 33rd based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score.

The Department of Politics and International Relations is ranked 37th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research.

[Back to top](#)

List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation

The programme and its streams are taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and the MSc leads to an award of the University of London. The Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate leads to an award of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. Programmes in Politics and International Relations are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme codes are given in parentheses.

MSc/ PGDip Politics – (2720/2721)

MSc/ PGDip Elections, Campaigns and Democracy – (2722/2723)

MSc/ PGDip International Relations – (2724/2725)

MSc/ PGDip International Public Policy – (2726/2727)

MSc/ PGDip International Security – (2728/2729)

MSc/ PGDip Media, Power and Public Affairs – (2732/2733)

[Back to top](#)