



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

## MA International Relations

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>MA International Relations</b>
<b>Final Award</b>	MA
<b>Exit Awards</b>	PGCert in International Relations; PGDip in International Relations
<b>Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)</b>	P2662FTC/PTC
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full time, Part time
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Campus
<b>Normal length of course</b>	12 months full time, 2 years part time
<b>Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies</b>	September 2022 intake onwards
<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of Portsmouth
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of Portsmouth
<b>Faculty</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences
<b>School/Department/Subject Group</b>	School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature
<b>School/Department/Subject Group webpage</b>	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature</a>
<b>Course webpage including entry criteria</b>	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/ma-international-relations">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/ma-international-relations</a>
<b>Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations</b>	None
<b><u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u></b>	Level 7

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment
- To provide a coherent, inclusive, and flexible programme of study, corresponding to the differing backgrounds, needs and interests of students and that is informed by the research and specialist expertise of academic staff
- To offer students a curriculum incorporating a broad range of themes, issues, debates and developments in the discipline of International Relations
- To enable and support student's intellectual curiosity, develop specialist interests, skills and knowledge to an advanced level in the field of International Relations
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge base to undertake individual research and independent learning on selected topics within the field of International Relations
- To promote a global perspective through an international curriculum addressing, inter alia, issues of global diversity, citizenship, and justice in order that students can develop a sense of informed citizenship and an international perspective in their learning.
- To provide an opportunity for students to gain experience and skills relevant to future employment or further study within the International Relations subject area by choosing relevant work-based learning and study abroad options

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	The world's division into multiple polities, drawing on the study of anarchy, security, economy, globalisation and the extent of - and explanations for - conflict and cooperation between states.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises	Essays, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, seminar performance, briefing papers, group and individual work
A2	The experiences of people across the globe in both historical and contemporary settings. Employing differing advanced concepts, theories and methods, analysis of power relations, explanation of how power is used to create and reproduce patterns of privilege and in/exclusion, and study of how these structures and patterns are resisted and challenged.		
A3	Advanced study of engagement below, above and beyond states in global public policy, foreign policy analysis, intergovernmental organisations and non-state actors including transnational corporations, transnational civil society groups, terrorist organisations and resistance movements		
A4	Complex and advanced key themes and concepts in International Relations to be able to critically engage with the often controversial and contested nature of the field and its boundaries.		
A5	The process of planning, executing and presenting an independent piece of work, in which qualities such as time management, problem solving and independence are evident, as well as critical interpretation and evaluation of the quality of evidence.		

#### B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Undertake systematic and creative analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory areas of knowledge within the discipline of International relations, communicating the outcome effectively.		
B2	Synthesise information innovatively, utilising knowledge or processes from the forefront of International Relations and cognate disciplines.		
B3	Employ conceptual knowledge and understanding relevant to International Relations in order to critically evaluate research, advanced scholarship and methodologies, and develop arguments using insights of contending approaches.		
B4			

	Think independently, analytically and creatively, and engage imaginatively with new areas of investigation within and across the boundaries of disciplinary International Relations.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops,	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, seminar performance, briefing papers, group and individual work
B5	Demonstrate ethical awareness and, working practically with others, manage the implications of ethical dilemmas arising in their work.	student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises	

### C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Demonstrate critical and reflective knowledge and understanding of International Relations, with both the ability and readiness to question its principles, practices and boundaries.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops,	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, seminar performance, briefing papers, group and individual work
C2	Identify, investigate and solve problems through lateral thinking to develop innovative solutions of benefit to the economy and society, thinking creatively in both practical and theoretical contexts.	student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises	
C3	Critically examine and evaluate different interpretations of international political issues and events, and through this review and critically assess the literature on relevant topics in International Relations in order to engage with contending debates, concepts and empirical findings in the field.		
C4	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in their professional practice, demonstrating appropriate behaviour and academic practice.		
C5	Identify a suitable topic for research based on a research question and/or hypotheses, creating an independent piece of work in which qualities are evident such as interpretation and critical evaluation of the quality of evidence.		

### D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Can engage confidently in academic and professional communication with others, reporting on action clearly, autonomously and competently.		
D2	Collaborate with others to achieve common goals.		
D3	Be able to work in a range of environments, responding positively to new situations by being aware, flexible, adaptable and realistic in their expectations.		

D4	Have an enterprising spirit, bringing innovation and productivity to the groups and communities to which they belong.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials,	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios,
D5	Demonstrate a sense of responsibility allied to a commitment to ethical practice in a variety of professional, civic, and personal contexts.	workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises	dissertation, presentations, seminar performance, briefing papers, group and individual work

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides support within the School from the Senior Tutor, Learning Development Tutors and Personal Tutorial system.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to

minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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## Document details

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