



Programme Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
<i>Programme title</i>	MA (PG Dip / PG Cert) in International Security
<i>Awarding Institution//Body</i>	University of Bath
<i>Teaching Institution</i>	University of Bath
<i>Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)</i>	
<i>Subject Benchmark Statement*Subject Benchmark Statement:</i>	
<i>Date of Specification preparation/revision</i>	
<i>Applicable to cohorts</i>	
<i>Programme Approved by</i>	

Synopsis and academic coherence of programme
<p>The overall goal of the programme is to equip students with a broad knowledge of contemporary international security and the dimensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of political and military interactions between states and non-state entities in the contemporary world, • of the role of state and non-state actors and of governmental and non-governmental international organisations in the new international security environment, and • of the relationship between its different component parts • and an ability to critically discuss and write about them. <p>In its design and implementation, the programme reflects a commitment to the integration of staff members' strong research profiles into teaching, to the application of learning and to a diversity of approaches to learning, teaching and assessment (as set out in the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy).</p> <p>Structure and Content:</p> <p>Details of unit contents can be found from the Unit Catalogue from http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/other.html - please note that these are updated in July of each year to list units for the following academic year.</p> <p>The programme will be delivered in two taught semesters plus a dissertation, each worth 30 credits. In both of the taught semesters students have to complete three compulsory plus two optional units. For an up to date list of available compulsory and optional units please consult the MA International Security programme description.</p> <p>The programme includes two potential intermediate stopping off points before the MA: a PG Certificate and a PG Diploma in International Security.</p> <p><i>Part-time Study</i></p> <p>All part-time students are expected to discuss and obtain approval for their selection of units at the beginning of each semester of study.</p> <p>MA in International Security</p> <p>Part-time students will be expected to complete three of the six compulsory units of the programme during each of their two years of study.</p> <p>Part-time students either opting for the PG Diploma instead of the MA or not in a position to proceed to dissertation writing stage will be expected to complete all six compulsory units of the programme during the course of their study.</p> <p>Part-time students either opting for the PG Certificate in International Security or not in a position to proceed to PG Diploma stage will be expected to complete at least three of the six compulsory units during the course of their study.</p>
Educational aims of the programme
<p>The Programme has four broad aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the study of contemporary international security; 2. To develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the students' own research and to advanced scholarship in the field of contemporary international security; 3. To enable students to be original in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline of contemporary international security;

4. To develop conceptual understanding:

- To evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in contemporary international security; and
- To evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses for the explanation of a wide range of diverse phenomena in contemporary international security.

The PG Certificate focuses principally on aim (1), but offers students scope for some specialist application of what they are studying (aim 2) and, through the assessment mode in individual units (e.g., essay), the opportunity to undertake a research enquiry on a modest scale (aim 3).

The PG Diploma gives additional scope for appreciation and application of different methodologies of research in the study of contemporary international politics (aim 2); and since more units are completed by the student, it gives a more substantial opportunity to undertake research of the student's choosing (aim 3).

The MA involves a dissertation which meets aim (3) on a still more substantial scale.

The PG Certificate involves some attention to aim (4), but this progressively increases with the PG Diploma and the MA, as a wider range of research methodologies and their applications in contemporary international security is critically reviewed.

<p>• Knowledge & Understanding:</p>	<p>Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the key concepts and theories of international security and the dimensions of political and military interactions between states and non-state entities in the contemporary world, of the role of state and non-state actors and of governmental and non-governmental international organisations in the new international security order, and the relationship between its different component parts; 2. Understand the origins, development, current activity and organisation of the institutions of the international security system; 3. Have knowledge of contemporary international security problems and how they emerge at sub-national, national and supra-national levels and between them; 4. Have a comparative understanding of international security issues, both in historical and contemporary terms. <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 and 2; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcome 3 and provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 4, while the MA will ensure that students achieve all four learning outcomes.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and guided reading. • Student seminar presentations with tutorial guidance and peer feedback • Group-based practice in identifying and analysing contemporary international security problems and the policy responses developed for them by state and non-state actors. • Active participation in research seminar programmes of the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and its research centres • Monitoring of individual academic development with personal tutor. <p>Assessment Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework essays of combined length of 4,000 words (some pre-set, others self-defined), with a progression towards more student defined work as the programme proceeds. • A supervised MA dissertation of 15,000 words in length on a topic agreed between supervisor and supervisee.
<p>• Intellectual Skills:</p>	<p>Students will be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences; 2. Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level. 3. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level; <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcome 1 and, to a lesser extent on learning outcome 2; the PG Diploma will have an additional moderate focus on learning outcome 3, while the MA will ensure that students achieve all three learning outcomes.</p> <p>They will also</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be able to familiarize themselves with research methods in political studies and international security; 2. Be able to apply problem-solving skills in seeking solutions to international political problems in a supra-national as well as national and sub-national context; 3. Be able to undertake investigations of political questions, issues and problems in an international context; 4. Be able to distinguish between the normative and pragmatic differences that affect policies and their consequences. 5. Be able to assess the outcomes of interventions by governments and other organisations to solve international security problems;

	<p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 to 3; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcome 4 and provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 5, while the MA will ensure that students achieve all five learning outcomes.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and guided reading. • Student seminar presentations with tutorial guidance and peer feedback • Group-based practice in identifying and analysing contemporary international security problems and the policy responses developed for them by state and non-state actors. • Active participation in research seminar programmes of the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and its research centres. • Monitoring of personal development with personal tutor. • Supervised dissertation. <p>Assessment Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework essays of a combined length of 4,000 words (some pre-set, others self-defined), with a progression towards more student defined work as the programme proceeds. • A supervised MA dissertation of 15,000 words in length on a topic agreed between supervisor and supervisee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Practical Skills: 	<p>Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire bibliographic and IT skills, enabling them to identify and use library and other bibliographic resources and maintain a personal research bibliography; 2. Be able to critically evaluate research; 3. Understand issues posed by international security research in relation to ethics, confidentiality and legality (including IPR), and acquire the skills needed in order to respect, consider and attend to the rights of other researchers and research participants; 4. Where appropriate, have begun to develop a working knowledge of a relevant language for a chosen geographical area(s) of study. 5. Be familiar with the format and mechanisms for the dissemination of research on international security issues through professional bodies, including conference papers, posters and journal articles, and the process of peer review. <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 and 2; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcomes 3 and 4, while the MA will provide students opportunities to achieve all five learning outcomes.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction course in bibliographic, IT and research skills, with particular reference to resources that can be accessed through the University • Lectures and guided reading. • Attention to the afore-mentioned professional practical skills within all taught units, as appropriate. • Applying, testing and honing the afore-mentioned professional practical skills, by writing essays and giving presentations and receiving appropriate feedback from peers and faculty, and by undertaking a fully supervised dissertation. • Active participation in research seminar programmes of the Department, the Faculty and its research centres. • Use where appropriate of the University's wide range of language programmes, and University-accredited language tutors. • Monitoring of personal development with personal tutor. <p>Assessment Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework essays of a combined length of 4,000 words (some pre-set, others self-defined), with a progression towards more student defined work as the programme proceeds. • A supervised MA dissertation of 15,000 words in length on a topic agreed between supervisor and supervisee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferable/Key Skills: 	<p>Students will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop writing, presentation and dissemination skills; 2. Develop skills in effective team working through collaboration in projects; 3. Develop competency in the presentation of research findings to practitioners and lay audiences; 4. Develop an understanding of how the media communicates specialist material to lay audiences, and the skills required to engage with the media, such as writing press releases and being interviewed. <p>The PG Certificate will particularly focus on learning outcomes 1 and 2, but also provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 3; the PG Diploma will have an additional focus on learning outcome 3 and</p>

provide a moderate focus on learning outcome 4, while the **MA** will ensure that students achieve all four learning outcomes.

Teaching and Learning Methods:

- Attention to the afore-mentioned transferable/key skills within all taught units, as appropriate.
- Applying, testing and honing the afore-mentioned transferable/key skills, by writing essays and giving presentations and receiving appropriate feedback from peers and faculty, and by undertaking a fully supervised dissertation.
- Active participation in research seminar programmes of the Department, the Faculty and its research centres.
- Monitoring of personal development with personal tutor.

Assessment Methods:

- Problem-oriented group assignments which can demonstrate the acquisition and application of these skills.
- Coursework essays and the Dissertation, involve exercise of some of the afore-mentioned professional practical skills, and are assessed in part by reference to them.

Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

Progression Regulations and Awards

Postgraduate Certificate: One semester, full-time; up to 15 months, part-time.

Postgraduate Diploma: Nine months, full-time; up to 21 months part-time.

MA: One year, full-time; two years part-time.

The programmes assessment and progression regulations are covered by the university's "New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations: Phases 2 & 3 for postgraduate taught programmes (NFAAR-PGT)" which can be found at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm>. Specific regulations for the masters are summarised in Appendix 11 at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>.

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Schedule for Board of Examiners and Timings of Re-assessment

Once assessed work has been marked/moderated and viewed by the external examiner, all marks are considered by a Board of Examiners for Units (BEU) – these typically meet at the end of each semester i.e. February and June, and once the dissertation has been completed in November. Once the marks have been officially agreed by a BEU, they are then collated and subsequently considered by a Board of Examiners for Programmes (BEP).

In the case of **Full-Time students**, BEPs meet at the *end* of the taught stage (in June) to make formal progression decisions and in November to make formal award decisions (including progression with resubmitted dissertations, exit with a lesser award, and failing). Interim sub-BEPs *may* meet at specific point(s) during the taught stage of the programme (typically in February) to monitor student performance. Supplementary BEPs *may* meet in early September to consider supplementary assessment results taken over the summer.

Condoning and/or supplementary assessment requirements/timings/deadlines will usually be recommended at the full BEP in June and in November. All decisions will be based on the Persistent Generic PGT Rules for the programme (<http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>). Whilst final award decisions are normally made at the November BEPs, occasionally where students may have had extensions to their original dissertation deadlines or may have had to submit revised dissertations, final award decisions may have to be made in the June boards (and very occasionally in the February board).

In the case of **Part-Time students**, decisions on condoning and/or supplementary assessment requirements will be made at each June BEP *during* the taught stage (as well as at the *end* of the stage) to avoid the student having to wait until they have completed all their taught units. Any decisions regarding condoning and/or supplementary assessment requirements will be based on the Persistent Generic PGT Rules *for the whole taught stage* (<http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>). It should be noted however that, very occasionally, those decisions made *during* the stage may have to be reconsidered at a subsequent BEP, depending on the students' performance during the remainder of the stage, taking into account the timeframe in which supplementary assessment has to be completed. Given the extended durations for dissertations, final award decisions may be delayed beyond the normal November BEP to the following June BEP.

Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

Details of Study Abroad Requirements

Details of Professional Accreditation

Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements

1. Students should normally have a 2.1 or first class degree in the social sciences or equivalent first degree in another subject or substantial relevant professional experience.
2. For those with English as a second language a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5 (or a recognised equivalent) is normally required with at least .6.0 in each component. Alternatively, a TOEFL score of 92 is required Pre-sessional English language training is available and may be required by the Director of Studies for admission to the programme.
3. Two references are required, of which one must be an academic reference.
4. The award of credit for accredited prior learning (APL) or accredited prior experiential learning (APEL) may be offered for up to 12 credits towards the PG Certificate, 24 credits towards the PG Diploma and 36 credits towards the MA. Standard QA guidelines will be followed to assess such cases.

Details of Support Available to Students

Specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support these staff working with their students, as well as take referrals to work more directly with the students. Students can also self-refer to these services. These services can provide information, advice and support in relation to accommodation, emotional difficulties, assessment of needs and provision of support relating to disability, student funding, general welfare, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, international students, spiritual matters, part time work, security and personal safety. The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. More information about these services can be accessed via: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/>.

There are also Medical and Dental Centres, and a Chaplaincy on campus that are very experienced in meeting the needs of a student population, as well as a University nursery and vacation play scheme to provide childcare for older children during the school holidays. Mutual support among those enrolled together on the programme is also very important, and students are encouraged to develop this, particularly during the induction phase and structured social activities.

The Academic Skills Centre provides support in essay writing for native and non-native English speakers.

High class sports and arts facilities enable students to develop themselves in an all-round manner. There is a health centre which includes dental services and a chaplaincy centre as well as a University nursery and vacation play scheme to provide childcare for older children during the school holidays.

Department and Programme Specific Support Information

- Initial induction programme to clarify expectations, identify computing training needs, brief students on available learning resources, strengthen group identity and reflect upon diverse learning styles.
- Detailed programme handbook and outlines for each Unit. In addition, a programme-specific Moodle page will be set up.
- Each student is allocated a Personal Tutor, who is responsible for monitoring and supporting the academic progress and general welfare of their students, has access to the Director of Studies of the MA programme and to a wide range of additional staff within the Department and Faculty who are able to assist in more specialised areas. Staff in these roles will be able to respond to many of the questions and concerns raised by their students.
- Unit convenors provide targeted feedback on essays.
- Extensive library, including 24 hour access to computers, the web and many on-line journals and databases.
- Membership of a wider community (through seminars and social activities) for those engaged in applied social science research and study.
- Student internet communications.
- Faculty website: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/hss/>
- Departmental website: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/polis/>
- Postgraduate brochure: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/prospectus/postgrad/>