

ORIENTATION WEEK 2019

Events for students in the School of Social Sciences

➔ Energy and Environmental Change MA

Monday 14 January 2019

International Student Welcome Event:

All international students are encouraged to book a place on the following web page:

www.westminster.ac.uk/welcomeprogramme

The deadline for booking your place on the Welcome Programme is at 12:30pm on Wednesday 9 January 2019. If you have an enquiry about the International Student Welcome Programme email welcomeprogramme@westminster.ac.uk

All students should attend the following sessions

Wednesday 16 January 2019

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| 10:30am – 1pm | Welcome introduction and to Energy and Environmental Change Welcome talk with Course Leader, Wojciech Ostrowski | Room 219, 32-38 Wells Street |
| 1:30 – 3 pm | Enrolment | Chiltern Hall, 35 Marylebone Road, NW1 5LS |

Thursday 17 January 2019

Student support services:

| | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| 11:30am –12:30 | Introduction to PAE module – Richard Paterson (11:30-11:50) Introduction to Library and IT Services – Lorna Rosbottom 11:50 Student Union Representative | Westminster Forum, 5th floor, Wells Street building |
| 12:30 – 1:15pm | Sandwich lunch | Westminster Forum |
| 1:30 – 2:30pm | Module Choices With Wojciech Ostrowski, MA Course Leader | Room 219, Wells Street building |

NB: Elements of the programme may be subject to minor modification

KEY CONTACTS FOR ORIENTATION WEEK

| CONTACTS | NAME | TEL | EMAIL |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Course Leader | Wojciech Ostrowski | 020 3506 8930 | W.Ostrowski@westminster.ac.uk |
| College Administrator | Kay Yardley | 020 7916 4180 | yardlek@westminster.ac.uk |
| College Registry Office | | 020 7911 5884 | fitzregistry@westminster.ac.uk |

Energy and Environmental Change MA (January 2019)

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------|--|----------------|---|---|---|
| Morning | 7PIRS028W Dissertation and Methods (Core) 11:00 – 13:00 4 workshops Regent Street UG04 | | 7PLAN029W Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change (Core) 10:00 – 13:00 Chiltern C422 | | 7ECON006W International Economics (Option) 10:00 - 13:00 Chiltern CG28 |
| Afternoon | 7LLAW019W International Energy and Climate Change Law (Core) 14:00 - 17:00 Little Titchfield Street 3.09A | | 7PIRS023W Regional Dimensions of Energy Security (Core) 14:00 - 17:00 Regent Street 354 | | |
| Evening | | | | 7LLAW008W Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration (Option) 17:00 to 20:00 Riding House Street G.02 | |

Energy and Environmental Change MA (September 2019)

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| Morning | | 7ECON013W Strategy and Policy: Energy & Sustainability (Core) 10:00 – 13:00 Marylebone Building M210 | 7LLAW004W Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law (Option) 10:00-13.00 Riding House Street 2.04 | 7ECON006W International Economics (Option) 10:00 - 13:00 Marylebone Building M303 | 7PIRS021W Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives (Option) 10:00 - 13:00 Wells Street 206 |
| Afternoon | 7FNCE016W Global Financial Markets (Option) 14:00 - 17:00 Marylebone Building MG38 – MBA Room | | 7PIRS011W Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change (Core) 14:00 - 17:00 Regent Street 152-153 (Cayley) | 7PLAN010W Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience (Option) 14:00 – 17:00 Chiltern C179 | |

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

| | |
|---|--|
| Name and level of final award: | MA Energy and Environmental Change The MA Energy and Environmental Change is a masters degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible. |
| Name and level of intermediate awards: | Postgraduate Diploma Energy and Environmental Change Postgraduate Certificate Energy and Environmental Change |
| Awarding body/institution: | University of Westminster |
| Teaching Institution: | University of Westminster |
| Status of awarding body/institution: | Recognised Body |
| Location of delivery: | University of Westminster, Regent Street |
| Language of delivery and assessment: | English |
| Mode, length of study and normal starting month: | 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time |
| QAA subject benchmarking group(s) : | None |
| Professional statutory or regulatory body: | None |
| Date of course validation/review: | 2015 |
| Date of programme specification approval: | 2015 |
| Valid for cohorts: | From 2016 |
| Course Leader: | Wojciech Ostrowski |
| Course URL: | westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate |
| Westminster Course Code: | PMPPIR04F (Full-time) PMPPIR04P (Part-time) |
| JACS code: | L240 |
| UKPASS code: | P052342 |

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

The MA Energy and Environmental Change is an interdisciplinary degree that combines international relations, law, business and sustainability studies. As such it provides a comprehensive examination of energy security, energy markets and climate change from global, regional and local perspectives. The degree equips students with knowledge of key intellectual frameworks and critical issues. The course offers a holistic approach to the dynamics governing energy-transition to a low-carbon economy nexus. Students are required to complete five interconnected core modules and may select one option module.

- You are taught by faculty from

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Westminster Business School

Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment

- Three key points about the MA

1. The MA is based on the assumption that the study of the transition to a low-carbon economy requires an understanding of the political, legal and economic issues associated with the fossil fuels that overwhelmingly dominate the energy mix in the majority of countries today. This requires a whole system approach which includes prevalence of fossil fuels as well as emerging renewables and related industries. In doing so the course provides a holistic picture of the global energy dynamics.
2. The MA looks at the issue of transition from global, regional and local perspectives. The multidimensional picture provided by the MA equips students with a toolkit, which allows them to understand how larger political, legal and economic changes taking place on the global and regional levels impact the dynamics on the local level, and vice-versa.
3. The MA's interdisciplinary approach enables students to learn about the climate change and global energy security nexus in its complexity, and highlights diverse perspectives and approaches that are key to developing a coherent understanding of these issues. The aim is to show how different academic disciplines complement each other with regard to energy issues, and why there is an actual need for these interdisciplinary approaches in the case of energy and climate change. The five interconnected core modules serve this purpose.

The specific aims of the course are:

1. To examine at an advanced level the relevance of contemporary debates in international relations and political economy to issues of energy security, energy markets and climate change.
2. To enable students to acquire knowledge of energy markets (oil, gas, coal, electricity and renewables), including trading arrangements, market instruments, price formation and market efficiency.
3. To establish students' understanding of contemporary challenges in international energy law and policy and to develop their understanding of the international climate change regime.
4. To evaluate the nature of different innovation policies and their relevance for the transition to a low-carbon society.
5. To enable students to develop research skills essential for writing research essays and dissertations.
6. To develop students' analytical and general transferable skills that can be used in business and policy-making.

The core modules address these course aims as follows:

Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change (1,5,6)

Regional Dimensions of Energy Security (1,5,6)

Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability (2,5,6)

International Energy and Climate Change Law (3,5,6)

Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society (4,5,6)

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the relevance of contemporary debates in international relations and political economy to the study of energy security, energy markets and climate change.
2. Critically analyse and synthesise energy security dilemmas of major energy producing and consuming countries within a changing global energy landscape.
3. Critically evaluate the structure and operations of oil and gas markets.
4. Explain and analyse the effect of international environmental policy instruments on major energy markets.
5. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the international regime on climate change and its implications for energy policy.
6. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of principles of international law governing the development and use of energy resources.
7. Critically evaluate the nature of different innovation policies and their relevance for the transition to a low-carbon society.
8. Synthesise the global, regional, national and local dimensions of multilevel governance of the low-carbon transition.

The core modules address these course-learning outcomes as follows:

Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change (1,2)

Regional Dimensions of Energy Security (1,2)

Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability (3,4)

International Energy and Climate Change Law (5,6)

Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society (7,8)

Specific skills

1. Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to apply a range of analytical frameworks to business problems, policy issues, case studies and other forms of assessment.
2. Students will present information and communicate effectively at all levels.
3. Students will learn independently and integrate new knowledge with previous experience and learning.

4. Students will write a final 60 credit dissertation in which they will evaluate critically the current research and advanced scholarship and deal with complex issues in a way that can be clearly understood by specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Key transferable skills

The ability to:

1. Construct reasoned argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise critical judgement at an advanced level;
2. Manage and deliver well-structured, coherently argued, timely and clearly presented oral and written reports and presentations at an advanced level;
3. Collaborate with others to achieve common goals;
4. Reflect on your own learning and make use of constructive feedback;
5. Manage your own further learning self-critically;
6. Communicate clearly in writing and other media to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
7. Conduct case study analysis;
8. Present effective arguments while acknowledging the importance of alternative perspectives.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. Teaching and learning methods will include lectures, seminars, case studies, presentations from guest speakers and energy sector stakeholders. The examination of both academic and current professional reports will be used to challenge students' assumptions and to encourage them to bring their own experience to the learning process when appropriate. Students will learn how to work independently as well as in a group environment to solve problems and to deliver solutions to a wide range of issues. Module sessions will require students to demonstrate their ability to apply a range of analytical frameworks to problems, policy issues, case studies, presentations and team-based activities. Students will learn how to solve complex problems in a systematic way, informed by relevant knowledge, tools and techniques. The contents of modules will be regularly updated in order to keep abreast with latest developments within the energy sector and climate change debates.
2. Guest speakers are an integral part of the MA course. For this reason the second half of the 'Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability' module has a practical focus with sessions led by guest speakers drawn from a range of energy companies, renewables firms and policy 'think-tanks'. These sessions take the form of short participative workshops exploring case studies on energy strategy and sustainability. The other core modules 'Regional Dimensions of Energy Security', 'Environmental Change and

Transition to a Low-Carbon Society' and 'International Energy and Climate Change Law' also have a guest speaker component with guest speakers leading one or more sessions. More information about guest speakers and their professional affiliations will be available on the course webpage.

Invited guest speakers coming from academia, industry and policy making world will also deliver occasional lectures outside the usual teaching hours which students are expected to attend. More information about those special events will be available on the course webpage and will be circulated via e-mail.

3. The assessment, depending on the module, will be in the form of a policy brief, written report, academic essay or oral presentation.

The list below represents the general criteria of assessment for work on the MA. Fulfilment of these criteria will be expected in all work, both written and orally presented.

Ability to:

- comprehend the central issue and the instructions
- conduct a literature review
- identify appropriate theoretical perspectives
- identify relevant methodological issues and their currency
- create and assemble relevant material
- synthesize material
- reflect critically, creatively and analytically
- build a coherent body of work
- communicate in good English
- use scholarly techniques of referencing

The grading of assessments will be based on the following broad criteria:

- the extent to which relevant material has been used
 - understanding of the methodological issues
 - breadth of knowledge of relevant literature and practice
 - depth of analysis and background research
 - evidence of critical and reflective thought
 - degree of coherence and structural clarity
 - command of English
 - use of the apparatus of scholarly referencing
4. Students will be working on their dissertations throughout the duration of the entire course. In semester 1 and 2 the MA core staff will run a series of joint and area specific workshops, and methods sessions. Students will be expected to submit the dissertation abstract and the dissertation title by the end of the semester 1 after having discussed them with the Course Leader. The abstract and the title will be then reviewed by the MA Dissertation Committee, which will assess the viability of the proposed projects as dissertations and allocate a dissertation supervisor for every student.

5. The MA Energy and Environmental Change is structured around three key themes:
- Energy Security
 - Energy Markets
 - Climate Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society.

The students are introduced to key themes during the 'Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change' core module. The module aims at evaluating the relevance of contemporary debates in international relations and political economy to the study of energy security, energy markets and climate change. It examines the political history of the modern energy systems and the role played by states and major private and state-owned companies. In addition, it explores the role of global institutions and their impact on the interplay between energy security, energy markets and climate change on the global level.

The remaining core modules each elaborate further on the key themes as follows:

- Energy Security

The energy security theme is discussed in depth in the 'Regional Dimensions of Energy Security' module. The aim of the module is to analyse the impact that recent geo-political shifts, the rise of new players in the energy sector and technological breakthroughs have had on the energy security of key producing and consuming countries. The key themes explored in the module include the shale revolution, resource nationalism, transit routes and pipelines, security of supply and demand, price volatility, state capitalism and survival strategies of petro-states.

- Energy Markets

The 'Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability' module focuses on energy economics and, in particular, on the role of markets in driving energy policy and strategy both short and long term. The module explores a number of key themes and conceptual issues. These include: an analysis of the structure and operation of oil, gas, coal, electricity and renewables markets and issues of price discovery, carbon trading, green taxes and subsidies; the role of banks and alternative sources of financing for oil and gas projects; an exploration of approaches to modelling and forecasting the supply, demand and price of energy and energy derivatives.

- Climate Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society

The 'International Energy and Climate Change Law' module is designed to introduce students to the principles of international law relevant to the development and use of energy resources. The module pays special attention to the evolving international legal framework on the mitigation of climate change, and its impact on international energy law and policy. This theme is also specifically addressed by the 'Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society' module. However, whereas the 'International Energy and Climate Change Law' module focuses on the global level, the 'Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society' focuses on a multilevel perspective. The module introduces a framework for analysing and shaping the transition to a low-carbon society. Core ideas are: transformative innovation, sociotechnical systems and sustainability transitions. Attention is also given to the multilevel governance and policy aspects of sociotechnical transition.

- Indicative option modules

The indicative option modules offer students an opportunity to explore in greater depth an aspect of one of the key themes covered by the MA: Energy Security, Energy Markets, Climate Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society.

The Energy Security and Energy Markets themes can be further studied by choosing one of the following options:

- **Global Financial Markets**
This module is concerned with both practical and theoretical issues related to global financial markets. It examines an array of financial instruments employed for the purpose of speculation and hedging.
- **Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration**
The aim of this module is to provide an introduction to the study of public international arbitration between sovereign states and non-sovereign entities in the context of cross-border direct investment.
- **International Economics**
The module is concerned with both practice and theories of international trade and finance. It focuses on such issues as classical and neo-classical trade theories, intra- industry trade, factor input mobility, trade policies, infant industry protection, economic integration, foreign investments, balance of payments, exchange rate regimes and their implications.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law**
The module provides an understanding of the international and domestic principles relevant to human and social rights in the context of the business case for corporate social responsibility. It analyses domestic and international legal frameworks together with key industry initiatives such as the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative in oil, gas and mining and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The Climate Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society theme can be further studied by choosing one of the following options:

- **Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience**
The module aims to explore the vulnerability of people and cities to short and longer-term environmental hazards. This includes those resulting from climate change, and associated social and economic risks. It involves looking at different concepts of risk and its assessment. It will explore how to work with local communities and agencies to build urban resilience and reduce risk from natural hazards through urban design and planning.
- **Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives**
The module explores and compares a range of approaches to analysing and evaluating governance and policy, assessing the understandings of democracy that these approaches imply. These approaches are introduced through a range of case

studies relating to policy-making in contrasting national and international contexts. The module also explores the challenges of defining and delivering policy across a range of international, national and sub-national contexts, and reflects on the implications of these challenges for democracy.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

| Credit Level 7 | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|------------------|
| MODULE CODE | MODULE TITLE | STATUS | UK CREDIT |
| Core Modules | | | |
| 7PIRS011W | Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change | Core | 20 |
| 7PIRS023W | Regional Dimensions of Energy Security | Core | 20 |
| 7LLAW019W | International Energy and Climate Change Law | Core | 20 |
| 7ECON013W | Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability | Core | 20 |
| 7PLAN028W | Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society | Core | 20 |
| 7PIRS028W | Dissertation and Methods | Core | 60 |

| Indicative Option Modules | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------|----|
| 7FNCE016W | Global Financial Markets | Option | 20 |
| 7PLAN010W | Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW008W | Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration | Option | 20 |
| 7PIRS021W | Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives | Option | 20 |
| 7ECON006W | International Economics | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW004W | Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law | Option | 20 |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

**COURSE STRUCTURE FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY
MA Full-Time Mode**

| Core Modules Semester 1 | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------|----|
| 7PIRS011W | Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change | Core | 20 |
| 7ECON013W | Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability | Core | 20 |
| 7PLAN028W | Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society | Core | 20 |
| Core Modules Semester 2 | | | |
| 7PIRS023W | Regional Dimensions of Energy Security | Core | 20 |
| 7LLAW019W | International Energy and Climate Change Law | Core | 20 |
| 7PIRS028W | Dissertation and Methods | Core | 60 |

One Option Module Only Taken Either in Semester 1 or 2

| Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1 | | | |
|--|--|--------|----|
| 7FNCE016W | Global Financial Markets | Option | 20 |
| 7PLAN010W | Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW004W | Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law | Option | 20 |
| Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2 | | | |
| 7PIRS021W | Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives | Option | 20 |
| 7ECON006W | International Economics | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW008W | Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration | Option | 20 |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

**COURSE STRUCTURE FOR JANUARY ENTRY
MA Full-Time Mode**

| Core Modules Semester 1 | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------|----|
| 7PIRS023W | Regional Dimensions of Energy Security | Core | 20 |
| 7LLAW019W | International Energy and Climate Change Law | Core | 20 |
| Core Modules Semester 2 | | | |
| 7ECON013W | Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability | Core | 20 |
| 7PLAN028W | Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society | Core | 20 |
| 7PIRS028W | Dissertation and Methods | Core | 60 |
| 7PIRS011W | Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change | Core | 20 |

One Option Module Only Taken Either in Semester 1 or 2

| Indicative Option Modules: Semester 1 | | | |
|--|--|--------|----|
| 7PIRS021W | Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives | Option | 20 |
| 7ECON006W | International Economics | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW008W | Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration | Option | 20 |
| Indicative Option Modules: Semester 2 | | | |
| 7FNCE016W | Global Financial Markets | Option | 20 |
| 7PLAN010W | Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW004W | Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law | Option | 20 |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

**COURSE STRUCTURE FOR SEPTEMBER ENTRY
MA Part-Time Mode**

| Core Modules Semester 1 | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------|----|
| 7PIRS011W | Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change | Core | 20 |
| 7ECON013W | Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability | Core | 20 |
| Core Modules Semester 2 | | | |
| 7PIRS023W | Regional Dimensions of Energy Security | Core | 20 |
| 7LLAW019W | International Energy and Climate Change Law | Core | 20 |
| Core Modules Semester 3 | | | |
| 7PLAN028W | Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society | Core | 20 |
| Core Modules Semester 4 | | | |
| 7PIRS028W | Dissertation and Methods | Core | 60 |

One Option Module Only Taken Either in Semester 3 or 4

| Indicative Option Modules: Semester 3 | | | |
|--|--|--------|----|
| 7FNCE016W | Global Financial Markets | Option | 20 |
| 7PLAN010W | Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW004W | Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law | Option | 20 |
| Indicative Option Modules: Semester 4 | | | |
| 7PIRS021W | Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives | Option | 20 |
| 7ECON006W | International Economics | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW008W | Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration | Option | 20 |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

**COURSE STRUCTURE FOR JANUARY ENTRY
MA Part-Time Mode**

| Core Modules Semester 1 | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------|----|
| 7PIRS023W | Regional Dimensions of Energy Security | Core | 20 |
| 7LLAW019W | International Energy and Climate Change Law | Core | 20 |
| Core Modules Semester 2 | | | |
| 7PIRS011W | Global Politics of Energy and Environmental Change | Core | 20 |
| 7ECON013W | Strategy and Policy: Energy and Sustainability | Core | 20 |
| Core Modules Semester 3 | | | |
| 7PIRS028W | Dissertation and Methods | Core | 60 |
| Core Modules Semester 4 | | | |
| 7PLAN028W | Environmental Change and Transition to a Low-Carbon Society | Core | 20 |

One Option Module Only Taken Either in Semester 3 or 4

| Indicative Option Modules: Semester 3 | | | |
|--|--|--------|----|
| 7PIRS021W | Policy, Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives | Option | 20 |
| 7ECON006W | International Economics | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW008W | Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration | Option | 20 |
| Indicative Option Modules: Semester 4 | | | |
| 7FNCE016W | Global Financial Markets | Option | 20 |
| 7PLAN010W | Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience | Option | 20 |
| 7LLAW004W | Corporate Social Responsibility Issues in Business and Law | Option | 20 |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course management

The Course is located at the Department of Politics and International Relations. The Course is directly managed by a Course Leader. Each module on the course also has a designated Module Leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery.

The course teaching team consists of staff recruited for their knowledge and professional experience in specialised areas. They are drawn from a range of academic and relevant non-academic contexts.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2015. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed.

¹ Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey or PTES which helps us compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that you value.

For more information about this course: Dr Wojciech Ostrowski, MA Course Leader;
Email: w.ostrowski@westminster.ac.uk.

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

Copyright of University of Westminster 2017©