

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Arts - International Relations • Master of Arts - Int. Rels. and Democratic Politics • Master of Arts - International Relations and Security <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - International Relations • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - International Relations and Democratic Politics • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - International Relations and Security • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - International Relations • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - International Relations and Democratic Politics • Postgraduate Credits - International Relations and Security
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	
Professional statutory or regulatory body	
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA International Relations FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • MA International Relations PT, Part-time day, September start - 2 years standard length • MA International Relations and Democratic Politics FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • MA International Relations and Democratic Politics PT, Part-time day, September start - 2 years standard length • MA International Relations and Security FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • MA International Relations and Security PT, Part-time day, September start - 2 years standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2026/7

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate 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: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>.

Aims of the course

The Masters of Arts in International Relations aims:

The MA in International Relations provides an exciting and innovative programme for exploring the forces that shape our world. From armed conflict and terrorism to state collapse, inequality, migration, energy insecurity, climate change, and global governance, the programme challenges students to think critically, debate diverse perspectives, and develop innovative insights into the most pressing international issues of our time.

Students examine various aspects of international order and politics, including the dynamics of international social and political power relationships and conflicts, and state-building. These topics are explored comparatively in relation to governmental, political and social processes, and in the contexts of various historical continuities, discontinuities and contrasts.

This MA is highly relevant in today's interconnected world, equipping graduates with advanced analytical, research, communication, and cross-cultural skills sought after in many sectors. It provides a strong foundation, or career boost, for roles in diplomacy, international organisations (UN, World Bank, IMF), government policy, NGOs (human rights, development, aid), think tanks, global consulting, multinational corporations (business, risk, strategy), intelligence, security, journalism, and academia. Graduates frequently advance to leadership, policy advising, or positions in addressing major global challenges.

The course develops advanced analytical skills, enabling students to critically evaluate sources, engage in informed debates, and apply theory to practice. Taught by leading scholars in Politics and International Relations, including the Centre for the Study of Democracy, students benefit from authentic, research-engaged teaching; seminars and public lectures with leading external speakers. We have previously arranged field trips to a range of international organisations and global partners, including NATO, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. We connect our students to a range of global organisations, including the pioneering work of the Democratic Education Network. Graduates leave prepared for impactful careers in foreign service, policy-making, NGOs, journalism, international organisations, or further study (including PhD research).

The design of the course reflects the university's commitments to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and addressing a range of profound, cross-cutting challenges, as captured by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (4 Quality Education; 5 Gender Equality; 10 Reduced Inequalities; 13 Climate Action; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

The Masters of Arts in International Relations and Democratic Politics aims:

The International Relations and Democratic Politics MA provides an advanced critical and comprehensive understanding of the forces shaping democracy, inter-state relations, and global politics. Designed for future changemakers, this course bridges theory and practice to help students reimagine global politics and champion new pathways for democratic participation and civic engagement.

In an era marked by profound challenges to democracy, its impact is evident in preparing graduates for influential careers in foreign service, policy-making, NGOs, international organizations, journalism, or advanced academic study, while fostering their ability to champion innovative pathways for democratic participation and civic engagement in an increasingly complex world.

Drawing on key theoretical interpretations of democratic politics, the course examines various principles of democratic thinking (ranging from pluralism and civil society to egalitarianism and human rights), and explores the interplay between theory and practice in old and new democracies and in processes of global governance.

Students study various aspects of international order and politics, including the dynamics of international social and political power relationships and conflicts, and state building. These topics are studied comparatively in relation to governmental, political and social processes, and in the contexts of various historical continuities, discontinuities and contrasts.

The course develops advanced analytical skills, enabling students to critically evaluate sources, engage in informed debates, and apply theory to practice. Taught by leading scholars in Politics and International Relations, including the

Centre for the Study of Democracy, students benefit from authentic, research-engaged teaching; seminars and public lectures with leading external speakers. We have previously arranged field trips to a range of international organisations and global partners, including NATO, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. We connect our students to a range of global organisations, including the pioneering work of the Democratic Education Network. Graduates leave prepared for impactful careers in foreign service, policy-making, NGOs, journalism, international organisations, or further study (including PhD research).

The design of the course reflects the university's commitments to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and addressing a range of profound, cross-cutting challenges, as captured by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (4 Quality Education; 5 Gender Equality; 10 Reduced Inequalities; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

The Masters of Arts in International Relations and Security aims:

The International Relations and Security MA provides an advanced, critical examination of security as one of the defining issues in contemporary international politics. Central themes include the underlying dynamics of interstate wars, state and non-state violence (including terrorism), the global balance of power, and challenges to the legitimacy of international institutions. Alongside these movements, there are existing and emerging geopolitical shifts, the proliferation of surveillance and algorithmic violence, the dangers of authoritarianism, and escalating humanitarian emergencies which raise significant questions for states, communities, and societies worldwide.

The programme provides a detailed understanding of the contemporary security agenda, its origins, theoretical foundations, and future trajectory. Students examine key theories and practices of international security and significant developments in the post-Cold War era, developing analytical skills to situate these challenges within broader theoretical and historical frameworks.

The course's critical approach—combined with historical and comparative analysis of interstate conflicts, state and non-state violence, terrorism, surveillance politics, humanitarian crises, and challenges to international institutions—builds advanced analytical, research, and critical thinking skills. These are highly valued by employers who need professionals capable of interpreting complex security landscapes, situating current events within broader theoretical and historical frameworks, and crafting informed policy responses.

The course develops advanced analytical skills, enabling students to critically evaluate sources, engage in informed debates, and apply theory to practice. Taught by leading scholars in Politics and International Relations, including the Centre for the Study of Democracy, students benefit from authentic, research-engaged teaching; seminars and public lectures with leading external speakers. We have previously arranged field trips to a range of international organisations and global partners, including NATO, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. We connect our students to a range of global organisations, including the pioneering work of the Democratic Education Network. Graduates leave prepared for impactful careers in foreign service, policy-making, NGOs, journalism, international organisations, or further study (including PhD research).

The design of the course reflects the university's commitments to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and addressing a range of profound, cross-cutting challenges, as captured by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (4 Quality Education; 5 Gender Equality; 10 Reduced Inequalities; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Employment and further study opportunities

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

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- 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.

Graduates of the MAs in International Relations, International Relations and Security, and International Relations and Democratic Politics are well-prepared for diverse career paths. These include foreign service, policy-making, international organisations, NGOs, journalism, and other roles within the global political landscape. The programs also provide an excellent foundation for those wishing to pursue advanced academic study. With a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, students are equipped to thrive in both professional and academic environments. We encourage our students to engage with Zone29, a dedicated space for students to develop their professional networks, gain industry exposure, and to grow their professional impact.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students have achieved as a result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Cognitive Skills, are learning outcomes that help build conceptual understanding that is necessary to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems and comment on research.

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Upon successful completion of the the programme, students will have acquired the requisite knowledge and understanding to:

- 001 Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the theories, concepts, and debates that underpin international relations, including classical, liberal, constructivist, post-colonial, and critical approaches, their historical development, and their application in the contemporary global order. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 002 Design investigations and formulate research questions arising from the theory and practice of international relations, and undertake research and inquiry to address those questions. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 003 Critically evaluate the role, evolution, and effectiveness of international and regional political institutions, actors, and practices in addressing complex global challenges such as conflict, development, migration, climate change, energy security, and human rights. (KU CS)
- 004 Creatively apply knowledge, theories, and concepts in a variety of contexts, both familiar and unfamiliar, and synthesise ideas and information from diverse sources to address complex issues in global politics. (KU KTS CS)
- 005 Form reasoned arguments using evidence, including data that may be incomplete or contradictory, and evaluate the appropriateness and relative benefits of chosen approaches to international relations and policy. (KU KTS SS)
- 006 Respond critically to current theoretical and policy discourses within international relations, and draw on

appropriate methodologies and practices to conceptualise and articulate your ideas. (KU KTS CS)

- 007 Recognise and critically reflect on the colonial and post-colonial aspects of international relations, as well as the challenges of sustainability, and evaluate their implications for the changing international system. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 008 Incorporate a critical ethical dimension in research and professional practice within international relations, and manage the implications of ethical dilemmas. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 009 Work collaboratively as a member or leader of a team to formulate solutions to problems in international relations, demonstrating initiative and effective communication. (PPP KTS)
- 010 Reflect on your own practice through personal evaluation, and maintain the capability to support effective communication in academic, policy, and professional contexts. (PPP KTS)

Additionally, the students of the MA International Relations and Democratic Politics pathway will be able to:

- 001 Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the theories, concepts, and debates that underpin international relations and democratic politics, including dominant and critical approaches. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 002 Design investigations and formulate research questions arising from the theory and practice of international relations and democratic politics, and undertake research and inquiry to address those questions. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 003 Critically evaluate the role, evolution, and effectiveness of democratic actors, practices and processes in addressing global challenges such as representation, participation, legitimacy, complexity, and governance. (KU CS)
- 004 Creatively apply knowledge, theories, and concepts in a variety of contexts, both familiar and unfamiliar, and synthesise ideas and information from diverse sources to address complex issues of democratic practice and global political change. (KU KTS CS)
- 005 Form reasoned arguments using evidence, including data that may be incomplete or contradictory, and evaluate the appropriateness and relative benefits of different approaches to understanding and strengthening democratic politics (KU KTS SS)
- 006 Respond critically to current theoretical and policy discourses within international relations and democratic politics, and draw on appropriate methodologies and practices to conceptualise and articulate your ideas. (KU KTS CS)
- 007 Recognise and critically reflect on the colonial, post-colonial dimensions of global politics, and evaluate their implications for contemporary democratic governance and legitimacy. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 008 Incorporate a critical ethical dimension in research and professional practice within international relations and democratic politics, and manage the implications of ethical dilemmas. (KU PPP)
- 009 Work collaboratively as a member or leader of a team to formulate solutions to problems in democratic governance and global political complexity, demonstrating initiative and effective communication. (PPP KTS)
- 010 Reflect on your own practice through personal evaluation, and maintain the capability to support effective communication in academic, policy, and professional contexts. (PPP KTS)

Additionally, the students of the MA International Relations and Security pathway will be able to:

- 001 Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the theories, concepts, and debates that underpin international relations and security studies - including classical and critical approaches - their development in the post-Cold War, and their application in the contemporary global order. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 002 Design investigations and formulate research questions arising from the theory and practice of international relations and security, and undertake research and inquiry to address those questions. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 003 Critically evaluate the role, evolution, and effectiveness of international and regional security institutions, actors, and practices in addressing complex global challenges such as war, security crises, terrorism, migration, climate change, and energy security. (KU CS)
- 004 Creatively apply knowledge, theories, and concepts in a variety of contexts, both familiar and unfamiliar, and synthesise ideas and information from diverse sources to address complex security issues. (KU KTS CS)
- 005 Form reasoned arguments using evidence, including data that may be incomplete or contradictory, and evaluate the appropriateness and relative benefits of chosen approaches to international security analysis and policy. (KU KTS SS)
- 006 Respond critically to current theoretical and policy discourses within international relations and security, and draw on appropriate methodologies and practices to conceptualise and articulate your ideas. (KU KTS CS)

- 007 Recognise and critically reflect on the colonial and post-colonial aspects of international relations and security studies, as well as the challenges of sustainability, and evaluate their implications for the changing international security environment. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 008 Incorporate a critical ethical dimension in research and professional practice within international relations and security studies, and manage the implications of ethical dilemmas. (KU PPP)
- 009 Work collaboratively as a team member or leader to formulate solutions to problems in international relations and security, demonstrating initiative and effective communication. (PPP KTS)
- 010 Reflect on your own practice through personal evaluation, and maintain the capability to support effective communication in academic, policy, and professional contexts. (PPP KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Learning on the course will be inclusive, accessible, and yet designed to challenge and deepen your learning. We welcome and greatly value our diverse student body and the multiple perspectives on international relations, democracy and security they bring. The well-being of our students is our priority and underpins our learning and teaching provision. We are also committed to working in partnership, co-creating the curriculum where feasible to add impact to your learning. We believe in students as 'change-makers'. To make our teaching and learning provision accessible and flexible, we have adopted digital and technology-enhanced learning alongside on-site teaching.

Students will be exposed to case-based and problem-based learning and engage in authentic and experiential learning activities.

We aim to enable students from every background to develop into resilient graduates with expertise in international relations, democratic politics and security studies who will respond flexibly and creatively to future challenges. We are committed to an inclusive, accessible, decolonising and diversifying curriculum.

Teaching methods

We are committed to providing personalised and flexible teaching in technology-enhanced classrooms and blended learning formats. We predominantly teach in small seminar groups and tutorials, and employ active and authentic learning pedagogies wherever possible, because we know students find such teaching and learning more engaging and effective.

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 to keep pace with the latest developments in global politics, security studies and studies of democracy.

Other teaching formats include lectures, exploring case studies, and presentations by foreign policy practitioners, scholars, civil servants, and journalists. Towards the end of the course, students will be required to work independently on a substantial research task, under academic supervision, culminating in the submission of either an academic dissertation.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity, inclusion, and equality of opportunity for all are at the core of our engagement with each other at the University of Westminster. On the MAs in International Relations, International Relations and Security, and International Relations and Democratic Politics, staff aim to build trust and create a supportive, safe learning environment in which you can expand your knowledge while having the opportunity to become co-creators of knowledge, broaden your understanding of the diversity of international relations, democratic politics, and security studies, and develop key skills. We appreciate that each of us brings unique identities and interests, and the course team will work with you to make sure that difference is celebrated and an inclusive environment is fostered.

We expect students to interact with staff and other students with respect and, in so doing, build a learning community based on trust to enable learning through vigorous study and vibrant discussion and debate. We commit to supporting you in your learning and help you reach your full potential. We treasure the contributions of our diverse student population to our learning community. To share and critically engage with competing views and practices from a variety of perspectives based on nationality, religious and political beliefs, ethnic or national origins, age, disability, sexuality, gender identity, or socio-economic background, enhances the learning experience for all.

A variety of learning, teaching and assessment formats are used across modules to cater for students' varied backgrounds and learning styles. Learning activities and assessments on the courses are designed to ensure equality of opportunity and further social inclusion and career advancement within and beyond the university.

Assessment methods

Each module incorporates both formative and summative assessments. The summative assessments (which are formally graded) take the form of policy briefs, blogs, case studies, reports, essays, and/or oral presentations, depending on the specific module. We are committed to developing your professional skillset and, for this reason, assessments are designed to extend your knowledge of the working practices of the field of study related to each module, alongside essay-based coursework.

Formative assessments vary by module, but their primary goal is to help students reflect deeply on learning outcomes. This strategy ensures students are well-prepared for their coursework by offering feedback from lecturers and/or peers on the design and framing of their coursework. Our formative assessment strategy encourages students to engage reflexively with module learning outcomes. By providing peer and lecturer feedback during the planning and design phase of coursework, we ensure every student is equipped to succeed in their respective modules.

The list below represents the general criteria for assessing work on the MAs. Fulfillment 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 clearly and effectively
- 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
- ability to communicate clearly and effectively
- Use of appropriate scholarly referencing, including the ethical use of artificial intelligence in coursework.

Students will work on their dissertations throughout the entire course. In Semesters 1 and 2, the MA core staff will deliver a series of workshops and methods sessions. Students are expected to submit their dissertation title and abstract by the end of the first semester of instruction. The abstract and title will then be reviewed by the Module Leader, who will assess the viability of the proposed projects and allocate a dissertation supervisor to each student.

We recognise that Artificial Intelligence can be a powerful partner in students' studies, helping them to learn, create, and solve problems more effectively. But with this power comes responsibility: to use AI ethically, transparently, and in a way that strengthens, rather than replaces, students' learning. The University of Westminster expect students to engage critically with AI, declare its use honestly, and always uphold the principles of academic integrity.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007
Literate and effective communicator	005, 006, 009, 010
Entrepreneurial	004, 009
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	001, 003, 007
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	007, 008

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. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

MA International Relations

Level 7

All MA students must complete 180 credits. This is broken down as follows;

Dissertation: 60 Credits

Core modules: 40 credits (2 x 20)

Option modules: 80 credits (4 x 20)

Full-time students take one core and two option modules in Semester 1 and Semester 2. They complete their dissertation in one year.

Part-time students take one core and one option module in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of their first year; one option module in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of their second year. They complete their dissertation in their second year.

You will be automatically enrolled onto your two core modules; you choose your four option modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7PIRS043W	International Relations in Practice: Cases and Challenges	Core	1	20	10
7PIRS017W	International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives	Core	1	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods	Core	2	60	30
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST009W	Development Policy and Practice	Option	Various	20	10
7DIPP001W	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice	Option	Various	20	10
7DIPP003W	Diplomacy in Action: Evolution, Adaptation, Innovation	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	Various	20	10

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST007W	Global Political Economy of Development	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Climate Change	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS021W	Governance, Policy Practice and Sustainable Development	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST006W	Just Development Futures: Ideas, Concepts and Debates	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity: Rethinking Governance, Power and Agency	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	Various	20	10

MA International Relations and Democratic Politics

Level 7

All MA students must complete 180 credits. This is broken down as follows;

Dissertation: 60 Credits

Core modules: 40 credits (2 x 20)

Option modules: 80 credits (4 x 20)

Full-time students take one core and two option modules in Semester 1 and Semester 2. They complete their dissertation in one year.

Part-time students take one core and one option module in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of their first year; one option module in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of their second year. They complete their dissertation in their second year.

You will be automatically enrolled onto your two core modules; you choose your four option modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Core	1	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity: Rethinking Governance, Power and Agency	Core	1	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods	Core	2	60	30
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST009W	Development Policy and Practice	Option	Various	20	10
7DIPP001W	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice	Option	Various	20	10
7DIPP003W	Diplomacy in Action: Evolution, Adaptation, Innovation	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST007W	Global Political Economy of Development	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Climate Change	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS021W	Governance, Policy Practice and Sustainable Development	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST006W	Just Development Futures: Ideas, Concepts and Debates	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	Various	20	10

MA International Relations and Security

Level 7

All MA students must complete 180 credits. This is broken down as follows;

Dissertation: 60 Credits

Core modules: 40 credits (2 x 20)

Option modules: 80 credits (4 x 20)

Full-time students take one core and two option modules in Semester 1 and Semester 2. They complete their dissertation in one year.

Part-time students take one core and one option module in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of their first year; one option module in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of their second year. They complete their dissertation in their second year.

You will be automatically enrolled onto your two core modules; you choose your four option modules.

Suggested Pathway: Energy, Security and Climate Change

As part of the MA International Relations and Security, we offer an innovative pathway on 'Energy, Security and Climate Change', delivered in collaboration with Westminster Business School (WBS) and Westminster Law School (WLS). Students on this pathway will be able to specialise in this area by choosing from the following optional modules:

- Global Politics of Energy and Climate Change
- Governance, Policy Practice and Sustainable Development
- Development Policy and Practice
- International Energy and Climate Change Law
- Sustainable Energy Policy
- Regional Dimensions of Energy Security

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7PIRS002W	Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence	Core	1	20	10
7PIRS027W	Theories of International Security	Core	1	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods	Core	2	60	30
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS030W	Democratic Innovations: Participatory Spaces around the World	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS005W	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST009W	Development Policy and Practice	Option	Various	20	10
7DIPP001W	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice	Option	Various	20	10
7DIPP003W	Diplomacy in Action: Evolution, Adaptation, Innovation	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS031W	Gender, Sexuality and International Relations	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST007W	Global Political Economy of Development	Option	Various	20	10

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Climate Change	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS012W	Governance of the European Union	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS021W	Governance, Policy Practice and Sustainable Development	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW019W	International Energy and Climate Change Law	Option	Various	20	10
7DVST006W	Just Development Futures: Ideas, Concepts and Debates	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS023W	Regional Dimensions of Energy Security	Option	Various	20	10
7ECON013W	Sustainable Energy Policy	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity: Rethinking Governance, Power and Agency	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS026W	The State, Politics and Violence	Option	Various	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

Course management

The Course Leader provides leadership and academic support for students on the course. To ensure personalised support, the Senior Tutor for Politics and International Relations assign each student a personal tutor who can provide additional academic support and referrals to other support services in the University (including the Counselling and Mental Health Service). Additionally, our active course representative system allows students to collaborate and share feedback directly with the Course Leadership team. Under the strategic direction of the Head of School/Assistant Head of School and the School Director of Learning and Teaching, we set key academic priorities centered on continuous improvement.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations).

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

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 and additional support available. You will be provided with a Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or equivalent. 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 utilises a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard, where students access their course materials and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. In addition to online resources in Blackboard, students can also attend Study Skills workshops and schedule one-to-one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes our libraries, each of which holds 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.

Support Services

The University of Westminster's Student and Academic Services department provides a range of advice and guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

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

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored annually by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that any issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence from various sources, including student surveys, student progression and achievement, and reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make necessary changes.

Periodic reviews are also conducted to ensure that the curriculum remains up-to-date and that the skills acquired on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Representative students meet with a panel to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess the course's performance.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University, and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is collected in various ways.

- Through student engagement activities at the course and module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire for each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be improved.
- Final-year undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey, which helps inform the national university league tables. Postgraduate students will be asked to complete the Postgraduate Taught Survey (PTES).

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2025©