UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

1. **Programme Title(s) and Award Code(s):**

   MA in Diplomatic Studies
   Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Diplomatic Studies

HECOS CODE	%
100471	100

2. **Awarding body or institution:**

   University of Leicester

3. a) **Mode of study**: Part-time
   b) **Type of study**: Distance learning

4. **Registration periods:**

   MA:
   The normal period of registration is: 2 years
   The maximum period of registration is: 4 years

   For a PG Diploma:
   The normal period of registration is: 22 months
   The maximum period of registration is: 44 months

   For a PG Certificate:
   The normal period of registration is: 12 months
   The maximum period of registration is: 24 months

5. **Typical entry requirements:**

   Either a first or a good second class honours degree from a British university or its equivalent in Politics, History, International Relations or other related subjects. In certain cases, equivalent relevant professional experience will be considered.

   Where English is not a candidate's first language, applicants will be required to provide evidence of appropriate language skills, equivalent to IELTS 6.5.

6. **Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

Standing APEL arrangement between the University of Leicester and the NATO Defense College, Rome

Accredited Prior Experiential Learning (APEL):

There shall be a standing Accredited Prior Experiential Learning agreement where the completion of the 'Senior Course' at the NATO Defense College shall be accepted by the School of History, Politics and International Relations as APEL in place of *PL7591 Strategy in the Modern World* (worth 30 credits). The operation of this APEL agreement will be in line with the framework set out in the University's Senate Regulations governing admission and registration, and the Policy on the Accreditation of Prior Learning. This standing APEL agreement is applicable to the following distance learning programmes:

- PGCert, PGDip and MA International Relations and World Order
- PGCert, PGDip and MA International Security Studies
- PGCert, PGDip and MA Diplomatic Studies

- PGCert, PGDip and MA Human Rights and Global Ethics
- PGCert, PGDip and MA Politics of Conflict and Violence
- PGCert, PGDip and MA Security, Conflict and International Development.

Process for application of APEL

Applicants wishing to claim APEL will be required to submit evidence of completion of the Senior Course as well as a short portfolio of work. The format of the portfolio will be agreed between UoL and the NATO Defense College, Rome. This portfolio will be reviewed by UoL staff to confirm that it demonstrates that students have met the learning outcomes associated with PL7591. The University of Leicester requires students to have completed the Senior Course within the last five years in order to qualify for this APEL standing arrangement.

Subject to approval by UoL staff, applicants will be eligible to undertake a PGCert, PGDip or MA programme with UoL, consisting of:

- PG Certificate: NATO College Senior Course (accepted as Experiential Prior Learning on the completion of short portfolio submitted to UoL) + one core module offered by University of Leicester. *This structure for the PG Certificate is only available to NATO applicants. In the event that the PG Cert is continued to PG Diploma or MA the student must complete the second core module.*
- PG Diploma: NATO College Senior Course (accepted as Experiential Prior Learning on the completion of short portfolio submitted to UoL) + two core modules + one optional module offered by the University of Leicester.
- Masters: NATO College Senior Course (accepted as Experiential Prior Learning on the completion of short portfolio submitted to the UoL), two core modules, one optional module and dissertation offered by the University of Leicester.

Award and Classification

The credits awarded by UoL on the basis of the APEL will be ungraded. Degrees will be calculated on the basis of the credits achieved at the University of Leicester only.   This will be undertaken on a pro-rata basis, in line with the Policy on the Accreditation of Prior Learning.

In the case of the PG Certificate the University of Leicester requires that students successfully pass one core module (offered by the UoL) in order to achieve the qualification.

Senior Course members must meet the language requirements set out in the School of History, Politics and International Relations admissions policy in order to be accepted onto their chosen degree. The requirements are set out in the Programme Specification for each programme**.**

7. **Programme aims:**

   The programme aims to equip students with the specific knowledge, language, and transferable skills necessary to prepare them for entry to practical training in diplomacy or a related profession.

   The programme also aims to:

   - Provide students with the skills to encourage people to go into diplomacy, make it more likely that they will succeed if they do, and provide a sympathetic understanding of it on the part of those working in related professions.
   - Provide a sympathetic understanding of diplomacy for those who wish to develop their knowledge of the subject.

8. **Reference points used to inform the programme specification:**
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Politics and International Relations
  http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- University of Leicester Learning Strategy 2017-2021:
  http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach
- University Employability Strategy

- Periodic Developmental Review Reports (February 2014)

9. Programme Outcomes:

	Intended Learning Outcomes	**Teaching and Learning Methods**	**How Demonstrated?**
(a) Subject and Professional skills			
Knowledge			
MA	Recognise, describe and discuss a wide range of important themes and issues in diplomatic studies	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Recognise, describe and discuss the major themes and issues in diplomatic studies	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Identify and explain the major themes and issues in diplomatic studies	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
Concepts			
MA	Discuss, analyse and appraise a wide range of important concepts, including diplomacy, diplomatic relations, mediation, and representation.	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Discuss, analyse and appraise key concepts, such as diplomacy, diplomatic relations, mediation, and representation	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Explain and assess key concepts, such as diplomacy, diplomatic relations, mediation, and representation	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
Techniques			
MA	Masterful application of key theories and concepts, research methods, and learnt skills in referencing and appropriate written and verbal communication	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
PGDip	Confidently apply key theories and concepts and learnt skills in referencing and appropriate written and verbal communication	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Apply key theories and concepts and learnt skills in referencing and appropriate written and verbal communication	Guided private study; directed reading; electronic seminar/forum; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
Critical analysis			
MA	Analyse relevant concepts and practices with independence and rigour, including in an extended research-based dissertation	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Analyse relevant concepts and practices with independence and rigour	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Independently analyse relevant concepts and practices	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
Presentation			
MA	Organise and present research material in a range of formats, including an extended research-based dissertation; develop arguments drawing on relevant material; write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Organise and present research material in a range of formats; develop arguments drawing on relevant material; write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays
PGCert	Organise and present relevant material; develop arguments drawing on material read; write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays
Appraisal of evidence			
MA	Confidently and persuasively assess the relevance and evaluate the quality of a range of primary sources and secondary literature.	Guided private study; independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays; dissertation

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
PGDip	Confidently and persuasively assess the relevance and evaluate the quality of a range of primary sources and secondary literature.	Guided private study; independent research	Participation in online activities; literature review; research proposal; essays
PGCert	Appraise the relevance and quality of a range of appropriate sources	Guided private study; independent research	Participation in online activities; research proposal; essays
	Intended Learning Outcomes	**Teaching and Learning Methods**	**How Demonstrated?**

(b) Transferable skills			
Research skills			
MA	Design appropriate research questions; develop research proposal; discuss the ethical implications of research; recognise and create effective literature reviews. Conceive and produce an independent research-based dissertation.	Formative study/research skills modules (1-4); dissertation supervision; directed reading	Research skills module e-tivities; dissertation outline; literature review; dissertation
PGDip	Design appropriate research questions; develop research proposal; discuss the ethical implications of research; recognise and create effective literature reviews.	Formative study/research skills modules (1-3); directed reading	Research skills module e-tivities; research design outline; literature review
PGCert	Design appropriate research questions; develop research proposal; discuss the ethical implications of research	Formative study/research skills modules (1 & 2); directed reading	Research skills module e-tivities; research design outline
Communication skills			
MA	Summarise, explain and analyse complex material, and formulate and present critical discussions and independent appraisals orally and in writing, including in an extended research-based dissertation	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; electronic seminar/forum; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays; dissertation; participation in on-line activities
PGDip	Summarise, explain and analyse complex material, and formulate and present critical discussions and independent appraisals orally and in writing	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; electronic seminar/forum; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays; participation in on-line activities
PGCert	Summarise and explain complex material, and formulate and present discussions and appraisals orally and in writing	Guided private study; essay commentary/feedback; electronic seminar/forum; and independent research	Essay plans; dissertation outline; essays; participation in on-line activities
Data presentation			
MA	Synthesise research data into coherent and sustained arguments using appropriate IT resources	Online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum; independent research	Essays; dissertation
PGDip	Synthesise research data into coherent and sustained arguments using appropriate IT resources	Online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum; independent research	Essays

PGCert	Present research data using appropriate IT resources	Online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum; independent research	Essays
Information technology			
MA	Confidently and effectively retrieve, utilise and present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives, data analysis software	Induction; online resource-based learning; activities	Use of Blackboard and participation in on-line activities; essays; dissertation
PGDip	Retrieve, utilise and present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives	Induction; online resource-based learning; activities	Use of Blackboard and participation in on-line activities; essays

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
PGCert	Retrieve and present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives	Induction; online resource-based learning; activities	Use of Blackboard and participation in on-line activities; essays
Problem solving			
MA	Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Guided private study; online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum	Essays; dissertation; participation in on-line activities
PGDip	Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Guided private study; online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum	Essays; participation in on-line activities
PGCert	Identify and analyse relevant problems and select between appropriate responses	Guided private study; online resource-based learning; electronic seminar/forum	Essays; participation in on-line activities
Working relationships			
MA	Collaborate confidently and effectively as part of a team. Identify appropriate opportunities for drawing on the knowledge and expertise of others; contribute and comment on ideas in learning groups	Electronic seminar/forum; dissertation supervision	Participation in on-line activities: message boards and Wikis
PGDip	Collaborate effectively as part of a team. Identify appropriate opportunities for drawing on the knowledge and expertise of others; contribute and comment on ideas in learning groups	Electronic seminar/forum	Participation in on-line activities: message boards and Wikis
PGCert	Collaborate as part of a team. Identify appropriate opportunities for drawing on the knowledge and expertise of others; contribute and comment on ideas in learning groups	Electronic seminar/forum	Participation in on-line activities: message boards and Wikis
Managing learning			
MA	Develop and implement personal plan of work to meet a deadline Work independently and in groups towards the completion of a range of tasks	Non-core module activities; guided independent study; personal tutor system; dissertation supervision	Participation in online activities; essays; dissertation; Personal Development Planning
PGDip	Develop and implement personal plan of work to meet a deadline Work independently and in groups towards the completion of a range of tasks	Non-core module activities; guided independent study; personal tutor system	Participation in online activities; essays; Personal Development Planning

PGCert	Develop and implement personal plan of work to meet a deadline	Non-core module activities; guided independent study; personal tutor system	Participation in online activities; essays; Personal Development Planning
	Work independently and in groups towards the completion of a range of tasks		
Career management			
MA	Take charge of one's own progress and development	Non-core module activities; personal tutor system; PDP training (on-line)	Participation in online activities; Personal Development Planning
	Reflect on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognise one's achievements		

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
PGDip	Take charge of one's own progress and development Reflect on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognise one's achievements	Non-core module activities; personal tutor system; PDP training (on-line)	Participation in online activities; Personal Development Planning
PGCert	Take charge of one's own progress and development Reflect on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognise one's achievements	Non-core module activities; personal tutor system; PDP training (on-line)	Participation in online activities; Personal Development Planning

10. Special features:

The programme is designed to build on the university's Learning Innovation Strategy, and is subject to on-going collaborative development with the Leicester Learning Institute. The programme is based on a social constructivist learning model.

Students are expected to complete a dissertation that is in line with the award title.

11. Indications of programme quality:

- Considerable departmental experience in e-learning as a result of the development and success of our existing DL programmes;
- Presentations from current students and former students at national and international conferences;
- Regular progression of former students into academic posts and postdoctoral and research projects;
- Consistent, positive feedback from current and former students;
- Consistent positive feedback from external examiners.

12. Scheme of Assessment

Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes

of study applies: http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-

regulations-for-taught-programmes

Students are only expected to complete the summative elements of the modules within this programme in order to pass.

13. Progression points

As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study

Board of Examiners in February and August will confirm that students have satisfactorily completed the requirements to progress to the dissertation.

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of](#) [study](#)

15. Additional information

Sustainability

Strengthening global peace, security and governance is at the heart of the UK's 2018 aid strategy and is the central focus of our distance learning MA programmes (see https://le.ac.uk/engagement/sdgs for details). Our courses directly contribute to Sustainability Development Goat (SDG) 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. A number of our MAs (particularly MA SCID) are designed for students who work or wish to work in the security, humanitarian or development sector thereby having a direct influence on practice. All our DL MAs support SDG 5 Gender Equality both through its engagement with academic debates about the role of gender in international politics, security, peace and development. I should also be noted that distance learning provides opportunities for women to access education, widening access to those who may be unable to travel for university education due to work or caring responsibilities. The programme also supports SDG 4 – Quality Education by providing access to academically rigorous and vocationally relevant education to anyone, anywhere in the world. Distance learning allows for capacity building without students having to leave their home countries.

16. External Examiners:

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

For the award of MA, students must complete four 30 credit taught modules and a 12-15,000 word dissertation worth 60 credits. For the award of Postgraduate Diploma students must complete four 30 credit taught modules, and for the award of Postgraduate Certificate, two 30 credit taught modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Core or Optional	Credits
PL7509	The Art of Negotiation	C	30
PL7502	Diplomatic Systems	C	30
PL7500	American Interventionism after the Cold War	O	30
PL7501	Democracy & Legitimacy in the European Union	O	30
PL7504	Intelligence & Security	O	30
PL7505	International Security	O	30
PL7508	Post Cold War World Order	O	30
PL7515	Theories of International Relations	O	30
PL7521	The International Politics of Protection	O	30
PL7587	EU Enlargement and Democratic Consolidation in Post-Communist Europe	O	30
PL7589	The Politics of Human Rights	O	30
PL7591	Strategy in the Modern World	O	30
PL7593	Governance and Corruption	O	30
PL7594	The Politics of European Integration	O	30
PL7595	Euroscepticism	O	30
PL7530	The Politics of Conflict and Violence	O	30
PL7531	Gender in Global Perspective	O	30
PL7533	The Politics of Global Nuclear Order	O	30
PL7534	The Politics of Violent Conflict and its Legacies in Northern Ireland	O	30
PL7596	Europe as a Global Actor	O	30

| PL7597 | Political Economy of International Development | O | 30 |

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

See module specification database http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation