UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

1. Programme Title(s):

MA in International Security Studies

Postgraduate Diploma* in International Security Studies

Postgraduate Certificate* in International Security Studies

* These awards are only available as exit awards, and are not available for students to register onto.

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full time/Part time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is one year full-time or two years part-time.
The maximum period of registration is two years full-time or four years part-time.

5. Typical entry requirements:

Applicants should have at least a good second class honours degree or equivalent, in a relevant subject. Equivalent relevant professional experience may be considered. For candidates whose first language is not English the University's standard English language requirements will apply (IELTS 6.5).

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

There are no exemptions on the basis of APL.

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to achieve a balance between breadth and depth of study in contemporary international security by providing students with a coherent mixture of theoretical and empirical study. It aims to provide students with competencies and skills to understand contemporary international security problems and to be able to analyse international security problems using a mix of theoretical and empirical tools. By providing a thorough grounding and a deep knolwedge in international security, students are made aware of the importance of this topic to an understanding of contemporary world politics, and its relevance to a wider range of issues in the discipline of International Relations.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

The programme has been developed with reference to the following sources:
- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- University Learning Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes:

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills			
Knowledge			
MA	Advanced and deep knowledge of the major themes and issues in international security and its cognate field, international relations	Seminars; problem solving tasks; directed critical reading; independent research; dissertation supervision	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; essays; dissertation
PGDip*	Advanced Knowledge of the major themes and issues in international security and its cognate field, international relations	Seminars; problem solving tasks; directed critical reading; independent research	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; essays
PGCert*	Knowledge of the major themes and issues in international security and its cognate field, international relations.	Seminars; problem solving tasks; directed critical reading; independent research	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; essays
Concepts			
MA	Enhanced grasp of nature and significance of international security to a high standard of detailed knowledge. Ability to evaluate appropriate theories of international security and apply these to security policy analysis	Seminars; directed reading; independent research; dissertation supervision	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews; dissertation
PGDip*	Enhanced grasp of nature and significance of international security Ability to evaluate appropriate theories of international security and apply these to security policy analysis	Seminars; problem solving tasks; directed critical reading; independent research	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; critical reviews; essays
PGCert*	Grasp of nature and significance of international security Knowledge of appropriate theories of international security and how these are applied to security policy analysis	Seminars; problem solving tasks; directed critical reading; independent research	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; critical reviews; essays
Techniques			
MA	Mastery of key theories and concepts, methodological tools, in both breadth and depth, and bibliographical, writing, oral and critical skills Understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research methods, and their application to international security analysis	Induction; library and study skills workshops; seminars; directed reading; independent research; dissertation supervision	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews; dissertation
PGDip*	Confident application of key theories and concepts, methodological tools, and bibliographical, writing, oral and critical skills Understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research methods, and their application to international security analysis	Induction; library and study skills workshops; seminars; directed reading; independent research	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews; dissertation

	Intended Learning Outcomes	**Teaching and Learning Methods**	**How Demonstrated?**
PGCert*	Knowledge of key theories and concepts, methodological tools, and bibliographical, writing, oral and critical skills Knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methods, and their application to international security analysis	Induction; library and study skills workshops; seminars; directed reading	Contribution to discussions; problem-based exercises; seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews; dissertation
Critical analysis			
MA	Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity including in an extended research based dissertation	Seminars; study skills workshops; independent research; dissertation supervision	Contribution to discussions; seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews; dissertation
PGDip*	Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity	Seminars; study skills workshops; independent research	Contribution to discussions; seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews
PGCert*	Independently analyse relevant concepts and practices	Seminars; study skills workshops; independent research	Contribution to discussions; seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews
Presentation			
MA	Ability to organise research material in a manner appropriate to the medium that is to be assessed; to distinguish relevant and non-relevant material; to write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Induction; study skills workshop; seminars; dissertation supervision; online resource-based learning	Seminar presentations; essays; dissertation
PGDip*	Ability to organise research material in a manner appropriate to the medium that is to be assessed; to distinguish relevant and non-relevant material; to write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Induction; study skills workshop; seminars; online resource-based learning	Seminar presentations; essays;
PGCert*	Organise and present relevant material; write-up and deliver written work to a professional standard	Induction; study skills workshop; seminars; online resource-based learning	Seminar presentations; essays;
Appraisal of evidence			
MA	Confidently and persuasively assess the relevance and evaluate the quality of a range of primary sources and secondary literature	Seminars; study skills workshops; directed reading; dissertation supervision	Seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews; dissertation
PGDip*	Confidently and persuasively assess the relevance and evaluate the quality of a range of primary sources and secondary literature	Seminars; study skills workshops; directed reading.	Seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews;
PGCert*	Appraise the relevance and quality of a range of appropriate sources	Seminars; study skills workshops; directed reading.	Seminar presentations; essays; critical reviews;

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(b) Transferable skills			
Research skills			
MA	Ability to: plan research projects, and locate, extract, produce and analyse relevant evidence; conduct significant background research and literature surveys; organise and marshal evidence and report on findings; analyse complex ideas and competing viewpoints; and construct informed critical arguments at an advanced level	Induction; online resource-based learning; study-skills workshops; directed reading; dissertation supervision	Essay plans; essays; dissertation; supervisory meetings
PGDip*	Ability to: plan research projects, and locate, extract, produce and analyse relevant evidence; conduct significant background research and literature surveys; organise and marshal evidence and report on findings; analyse complex ideas and competing viewpoints; and construct informed arguments.	Induction; online resource-based learning; study-skills workshops; directed reading	Essay plans; essays; tutor meetings
PGCert*	Ability to: plan research projects; organise and marshal evidence and report on findings; and construct informed arguments	Induction; online resource-based learning; study-skills workshops; directed reading	Essay plans; essays; tutor meetings
Communication skills			
MA	Ability to: deliver professional oral presentations; respond with focus and clarity to written or oral questions; write clearly and concisely; make effective use of graphical and statistical summaries, where appropriate; produce properly structured, clear essays and dissertations	Induction; study skills workshop; seminars; dissertation supervision	Contribution to discussions; seminar presentations; essays; dissertation
PGDip*	Ability to: deliver professional oral presentations; respond with clarity to written or oral questions; write clearly and concisely; make effective use of graphical and statistical summaries, where appropriate; produce properly structured, clear essays.	Induction; study skills workshop; seminars	Contribution to discussions; presentations; essays
PGCert*	Ability to: deliver professional oral presentations; respond with clarity to written or oral questions; write clearly; make use of graphical and statistical summaries, where appropriate; produce properly structured essays.	Induction; study skills workshop; seminars	Contribution to discussions; presentations; essays
Data presentation			
MA	Ability to synthesise research data and present it coherently and effectively using appropriate IT resources	Seminars; directed reading; online resource-based learning; dissertation supervision	Seminar presentations; essays; dissertation
PGDip*	Ability to synthesise research data and present it coherently and effectively using appropriate IT resources	Seminars; directed reading; online resource-based learning	Seminar presentations; essays
PGCert*	Ability to present research data using appropriate IT resources	Seminars; directed reading; online resource-based learning	Seminar presentations; essays

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Information technology			
MA	Advanced ability to retrieve and present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives, data analysis software	Induction; study skills workshop; online resource-based learning	Essays; dissertations; problem-based exercises; critical reviews
PGDip*	Advanced ability to retrieve and present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives, data analysis software	Induction; study skills workshop; online resource-based learning	Essays; problem-based Exercises; critical reviews
PGCert*	Ability to present information using appropriate information technology, for example, bibliographic software, data archives, data analysis software	Induction; study skills workshop; online resource-based learning	Essays; problem-based exercises; critical reviews
Problem solving			
MA	Ability to identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Seminars; dissertation supervision; online resource-based learning.	Problem-based exercises; essays; dissertation
PGDip*	Ability to identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Seminars; online resource-based learning.	Problem-based exercises; essays
PGCert*	Ability to identify and analyse relevant problems and select between appropriate responses	Seminars; online resource-based learning.	Problem-based exercises; essays
Working relationships			
MA	Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to contribute and comment on ideas in seminar groups	Problem solving tasks; seminars; dissertation workshop	Contributions to discussions; problem-based exercises
PGDip*	Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to contribute and comment on ideas in seminar groups	Problem solving tasks; seminars	Contributions to discussions; problem-based exercises
PGCert*	Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to contribute and comment on ideas in seminar groups	Problem solving tasks; seminars	Contributions to discussions; problem-based exercises
Managing learning			
MA	Management of an extensive literature and familiarisation with key issues and concepts Ability to plan and implement tasks and manage work-loads	Study-skills and dissertation workshops; independent research; dissertation supervision	Essays; dissertations; supervisor meetings
PGDip*	Management of an extensive literature and familiarisation with key issues and concepts Ability to plan and implement tasks and manage work-loads	Study-skills workshops; independent research; dissertation supervision	Essays; tutor meetings
PGCert*	Management of some literature and familiarisation with key issues and concepts Ability to plan and implement tasks and manage work-loads	Study-skills workshops; independent research; dissertation supervision	Essays; tutor meetings

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Career management			
MA	Ability to take charge of one's own progress and development Reflection on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognition of one's achievements	Personal Tutor System; Dissertation Supervision; PhD and careers seminar	Tutor meetings
PGDip*	Ability to take charge of one's own progress and development Reflection on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognition of one's achievements	Personal Tutor System; PhD and careers seminar	Tutor meetings
PGCert*	Ability to take charge of one's own progress and development Reflection on one's strengths, interests, motivations and skills; recognition of one's achievements	Personal Tutor System; PhD and careers seminar	Tutor meetings

10. Special features:

The programme draws on unique expertise in the School on intelligence, security, and contemporary practice in these areas, away from the centres of power that often distorts programmes in other institutions.

To reflect the special focus of the MA programme, students taking this programme will be required to choose a dissertation topic that aligns with the many controversies, themes, debates, and issues raised in International Relations.

Students are able to engage with opportunities outside of the core programme by attending events organized by HyPIR research clusters, which include prestigious guest speakers which often include practitioners, panel events, an annual postgraduate research conference, lunchtime seminars and staff research peer review sessions, all of which help provide experience for our students to enhance professional transferrable skills and develop their awareness of professional academic practices and developments in the wider world with guest speakers.

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

11. Indications of programme quality:
- Considerable departmental experience in blended 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/documents/2012-13/senatereg6-pgt.pdf

13. **Progression points**

   As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study (see Senate Regulations)

   In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

14. **Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:**
   As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study (see Senate Regulations)

15. **Additional information** [e.g. timetable for admissions]
   N/A

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)

	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester
Core	PL7168	International Security	30	1
	PL7000	Dissertation	60	Both
Optional	PL7089	The Politics of Human Rights	30	1
	PL7161	Post-Cold War World Order	30	1
	PL7093	Governance and Corruption	30	1
	HS7026	The Holocaust: A Genocide – Mass Murder in Comparative Perspective	30	1
	PL7082	Intelligence and Security	30	2
	PL7076	American Foreign Policy	30	2
	PL7095	Global Ethics in Practice	30	2
	HS7037	After the Holocaust	30	2
	HS7034	American Freedom	30	2
	HS7217	Global Cities	30	2

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

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