Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2023/24

Date created: 05/03/2021 **Last amended:** 04/11/2022 **Version no.** 1

1. **Programme title(s) and code(s):**

    MA in International Security Studies
    Postgraduate Diploma* in International Security Studies
    Postgraduate Certificate* in International Security Studies

    *Approved as exit awards only

    a) **HECOS Code**

HECOS Code	%
10488	100%

    b) **UCAS Code (where required)**

    [Insert UCAS Code or state n/a]

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:**

    [Insert intended award and title]

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

    The maximum period of registration 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 *[write for the student audience]*

    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:
- o University of Leicester Learning and Teaching Strategy
- o University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- o QAA Frameworks for Higher Education
Qualifications, [http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications- frameworks. pdf](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf)
- o QAA (undergraduate honours) Benchmarking Statement for Politics and International Relations, http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/politics.pdf

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Subject and Professional skills

i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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 |

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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
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

iv) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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;

v) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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;

b) Transferable skills

i) Research skills

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iii)   Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iv)   Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

v)   Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
PGCert*	Ability to identify and analyse relevant problems and select between appropriate responses	Seminars; online resource-based learning.	Problem-based exercises; essays

vi)   Working relationships

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

vii)   Managing learning

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

viii)   Career management

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

Intended Learning Outcomes		Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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:

o Considerable departmental experience in blended learning as a result of the development and success of our existing DL programmes;

o Presentations from current students and former students at national and international conferences;

o Regular progression of former students into academic posts and postdoctoral and research projects;

o Consistent, positive feedback from current and former students;

o 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 Examiner(s) reports**

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)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

MA International Security Studies

Level 4/Year 1   2023/24

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	60 credits	30 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	45 credits	45 credits

180 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL7168	International Security	30 credits
Year long	PL7000	Dissertation	60 credits

Optional modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	HS7026	The Holocaust: A Genocide – Mass Murder in Comparative Perspective	30 credits
Semester 1	PL7089	The Politics of Human Rights	30 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PL7161	International Relations After the Cold War	30 credits
Semester 2	HS7034	American Freedom	30 credits
Semester 2	HS7037	After the Holocaust	30 credits
Semester 2	HS7212	Global Cities	30 credits
Semester 2	PL7076	U.S. Foreign Policy: Themes and Controversies	30 credits
Semester 2	PL7095	Global Ethics in Practice	30 credits
Semester 2	PL7099	Astropolitics: Space Policy and IR	30 credits

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See undergraduate [module specification database](#) (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).