

Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	Master of Arts (MA) in International Political Sociology
Name of interim award(s):	PgCert, PgDip
Duration of study / period of registration:	12 months (FT); 24 months (PT)
Queen Mary programme code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	Politics & International Relations and Sociology
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Politics and International Relations

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Department of Law

School of History

Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Programme outline

In today's world, it is becoming increasingly evident that everything is closely linked, including humans, animals, plants, geological and atmospheric processes. The movement of people is challenging borders, and it's hard to separate the local and global. Digital technologies are rapidly altering various aspects of life, from the use of artificial intelligence in the workplace to warfare and security. Traditional distinctions between human and nature, state and society, international and national, and technology and human agency are no longer adequate to handle this complex and interconnected world.

This MA programme responds to these challenges by adopting a problem-driven approach to world politics that transcends established disciplinary boundaries. It pioneers a training in International Political Sociology, a transdisciplinary approach that spans academic fields like International Relations, Political Science, Sociology, Law and History, and extends its reach to non-academic spaces such as think-tanks, NGOs, social movements, and policy units. The programme's unique focus is on training

new knowledge creators who can confidently navigate across disciplinary and institutional boundaries to tackle today's major challenges in innovative ways. Its primary goal is to embrace the creativity of political and social practice to forge new possibilities for coexistence in an era dominated by catastrophes and the continuous narration of major crises.

Aims of the programme

The aims are:

- Teach students conceptual and methodological tools in International Political Sociology that allow them to become innovative knowledge creators who can think outside the box when addressing contemporary issues of concern in world politics
- Train students in developing transdisciplinary ways of working
- Provide students with the skills to comfortably lead problem-driven collaborations
- Provide students with substantive knowledge about contemporary challenges in world politics, including changing social relations and transformations of social and political orders.
- Develop a range of transferable skills that support working in group and that hone an ability to be analytically precise and a proficiency in synthesising various insights into a coherent message.
- Provide research training through an advanced taught programme that supports students who seek to enter policy and research officer jobs in think tanks, social movements and NGOs, international organisations, and government departments as well as PhD programmes.

The programme and its aims have been designed following the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Sociology and Politics and International Relations.

What will you be expected to achieve?

On successful completion of the programme, students will

- have a clear understanding of International Political Sociology as a problem-driven and transdisciplinary approach to world politics
- the ability to understand the value and limits of transdisciplinary knowledge production
- the ability to employ critical thinking and judgement to analyse and develop ways of addressing challenges in world politics
- be comfortable with creating new conceptual tools and agile ways of developing knowledge that go beyond the instituted repertoires in their work environment
- the ability to set up and successfully execute individual and collaborative research projects

Academic Content:

A 1	become familiar with the history of International Political Sociology and the terminologies and approaches associated with it
A 2	develop a specialised, in-depth knowledge of debates in International Political Sociology and how they engage critically with familiar understandings of the political, social and international
A 3	gain an advanced understanding of the nature and value of transdisciplinary knowledge and methods of doing transdisciplinary research
A 4	develop a critical understanding of some of the major matters of concern in the contemporary world and challenges they pose for social sciences

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	become skilled in critical but constructive engagement with existing knowledge frameworks
B 2	develop skills in designing, organising and executing individual and collaborative problem-based projects
B 3	gain the ability to communicate disciplinary ideas to others in a clear, coherent and persuasive fashion

B4	gain an appreciation of and capacity for creativity in concept development and methods of producing knowledge, including the ability to synthesise information and ideas from multiple disciplines
B5	develop systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of approaches, concepts and methods associated with International Political Sociology

Attributes:

C1	identify and critically evaluate appropriate information in specific contexts in a self-directed way, and reflect on how this might be used and adapted to different contexts
C2	work independently and in groups, demonstrating clarity, initiative, self-organisation and time management
C3	gain an understanding of different contexts of knowledge production (e.g. difference between academic institutions, think tanks and NGOs as centres of knowledge creation and circulation)
C4	develop the skills to reflect critically and habitually on one's own and possibly others' functioning in order to improve own and possibly others' practice

How will you learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with SPIR's Education Strategy and statement of educational principles, which support excellent, inclusive and innovative teaching practice aimed at fostering independent learning and critical thinking in our students. Our strategy is informed by QMUL's 2030 strategy.

Teaching takes a number of forms:

- lectures
- seminars
- workshops
- individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- individual feedback on written work.

Learning is supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed module information shared on QMPlus
- The provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- Appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- Use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, QMPlus and online reading lists
- Encouraging active learning by supporting students in seminar discussions and independent research
- Research methods training

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include: written coursework; examinations; presentations; and the dissertation.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

THE FULL-TIME PROGRAMME IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS

Term 1:

Compulsory

- POLM102: Advanced introduction to International Political Sociology (30 credits)

Optional module:

- 30 credits from the elective modules list

Term 2:

Compulsory

- POLM105: Doing transdisciplinary research (30 credits)

Optional

- 30 credits from elective modules list

Term 3:

- POLM017: Dissertation/Project in International Political Sociology (60 credits)

THE PART-TIME PROGRAMME IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

- Year 1 Term 1: POLM102: Advanced introduction to International Political Sociology (30 credits)

- Year 1 Term 2: POLM105: Doing transdisciplinary research (30 credits)

- Year 2 Term 1: 30 credits from the elective modules list

- Year 2 Term 2: 30 credits from the elective modules list

- Year 2 Term 3: POLM017: Dissertation/Project in International Political Sociology (60 credits)

NOTE:

The list of elective modules will be confirmed each year in light of the availability of modules.

To strengthen their transdisciplinary skills, FT and PT students will have the option to take up to 30 credits from the elective modules made available for this MA programme by the Department of Law, the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, and the School of History.

INDICATIVE LIST OF ELECTIVE MODULES:

The list contains a selection of modules from the Master modules offered in SPIR, the Department of Law, CCLS and the School of History that are relevant for International Political Sociology. The list below is an indicative list of modules. The details about which modules exactly and possible caps on places will be specified annually in consultation with the Directors of Education of each participating School, Department, and Centre.

Students are required to select their electives from the agreed list of elective modules.

The programme aims to accommodate the first choice of electives as much as possible but we might have to assign second or third choice elective modules in light of timetabling clashes and caps on modules.

Indicative list of elective modules offered by SPIR:

POLM026 - Globalisation and the international political economy of development

POLM054 - War and international security

POLM104 - Nationalism and International Order

POLM106 - Confronting violence: anticolonial feminist and queer approaches

Indicative list of elective modules offered by other Schools:

HST7702 - Empire and Early Modern Political Thought (History)

HST7704 - Patria and Cosmopolis: Nation, Country and Humanity in Political Thought from Ancient Greece to the Age of Revolutions (History)

HST7706 - The black radical tradition (History)

HST7711 - Architecture and Space in Modern Intellectual History (History)

HST7712 - Theories of the State (History)

SOLM070 - International Human Rights Law: Law, Practice and Institutions (Law) - 30 credits

SOLM175 - Terrorism, migration and human rights (Law) - 30 credits

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SOLM260 - Corporate Violence (Law) - 15 credits
SOLM262 - Climate Justice (Law) - 15 credits

NOTE: The PgCert and PgDip will be available as exit awards only.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Advanced introduction to international political sociology	POLM102	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Doing transdisciplinary research	POLM105	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Elective module to be selected from annual list of electives	see above	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Elective module to be selected from annual list of electives	see above	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation	POLM017	60	7	Core	1	Semester 3

What are the entry requirements?

High upper second class honours degree or above (65+ equivalent) in Politics, Sociology, International Relations, Geography, Anthropology, Law or a related discipline in the social sciences.

High upper second class honours degree or above (65+ equivalent) in the Humanities.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The programme is monitored through the Student Voice Committee (SVC), with student representatives, chaired by the Academic Student Experience Lead, and the Education Committee (EC) chaired by the Director of Education (DoE). Issues arising from student evaluations are fed into the Education Committee. External examiners oversee assessment and marking procedures; this is handled by the Chair of Exams. The programme is evaluated through the Programme Review process.

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Student Voice Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates an Education Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership and consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. Programme Review

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is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery. Students' views are considered via the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

Students take part in a School wide induction programme. They will have a designated personal tutor as well as a designated dissertation supervisor, both of whom will meet with the students on a regular basis. The School has a Senior Tutor for MA students who will also be available to see students.

Students are also kept informed about support and help available either within the school, such as dedicated personal adviser weeks, or support workshops organised by Advice and Counselling at QM or the Language and Learning Unit, via the postgraduate administrator and school office.

Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The programme is primarily aimed at providing advanced skills training and knowledge preparing students for jobs aimed at individual and collaborative knowledge creation in academic institutions, think tanks, NGOs, and civil service among others. However, both the subject specific knowledge and transferable skills prepare students for a wide range of employment opportunities, including careers in the civil service, journalism, social work, local, national and international governance and third-sector organisations.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Jef Huysmans

Programme Title: MA in International Political Sociology

Person responsible for management of programme:

Jef Huysmans

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by
School / Institute Education Committee:**

13/01/2025

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught
Programmes Board:**