COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	MSc International Relations
Intermediate Awards Available	PG Diploma International Relations
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL (with distance learning delivery supported by Unicaf)
Alternative Teaching Institutions	None
UEL Academic School	School of Education and Communities
UCAS Code	
Professional Body Accreditation	None
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Politics and International Relations
Additional Versions of this Course	Online
Date Specification Last Updated	December 2020

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- develop the ability to analyse both orally and in writing the issues and debates in International Relations;
- understand the range of contexts within which International Relations operates;
- develop a critical awareness of competing analytical frameworks in the study of International Relations and deploy these in the analysis of specific questions and issues.

What you will learn:

Knowledge
- You will critically consider a range of perspectives deployed in the analysis of institutions and processes in International Relations;
- You will develop an advanced understanding of key approaches to researching issues in International Relations;
- You will appreciate the context of social inequalities and environmental insecurities in shaping the practices and processes of International Relations.

Thinking skills
- You will analyze, at an advanced level, key issues, debates and perspectives in the study of International Relations;
- You will formulate relevant research questions for a postgraduate research project and critically reflect on your research practice;
- You will further develop your skills of interpretation and analysis of data and other research findings.

Subject-Based Practical skills
- You will develop advanced research skills in International Relations;
- You will further develop skills in data retrieval;
- You will select and apply suitable methodologies to select areas of study.

Skills for life and work (general skills)
- You will gain advanced skills in independent research;
- You will further develop your analytical, verbal and writing skills to an advanced level;
- You will develop your abilities to effectively engage with the policy context and practical demands of the workplace through a placement/internship.

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through
- Guided reading and online activities
- Lectures, seminars and tutorials
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback

Thinking skills are developed through
- Reflective activities with feedback
- Seminar discussions and activities

Practical skills are developed through
- IT activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Internship/placement

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through
- Conference-style presentations
- Planning activities with feedback
- Project work

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by
- Presentations
- Essays
- Examinations

Thinking skills are assessed by
- Coursework
- Examinations
- Project work

Practical skills are assessed by
- Research and data retrieval
- Mixed media presentations

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by
- Project work
- Placement activities
- Independent study

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

In the second or third term, students will be expected to do an internship/work placement of six weeks duration, in a governmental or non-governmental organisation specialised in the field of development and humanitarianism as part of the core module, Policy and Practice of Humanitarianism and Development.

You will be expected to arrange your own placement in one organisation of your choice, which will be subject to the module leader, and course leaders, approval. The module leader, together with course leaders of post graduate courses in the Social Sciences department, will support you in making the necessary arrangements for your placement.

Two sessions will be held in term 1 and/or 2 to prepare you for undertaking the placement; explain the placement's requirements; and to allow you to plan your time ahead and make the necessary preparations. The module leader will work closely with the School's placement educator and career services to enhance your working skills and learning experience (training sessions to include: interview skills, development of work plans, establishing clear expectations, identifying lessons learned and learning opportunities).

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3. Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
4. Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
5. Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
6. Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
7. Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning?

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted. The module structure of this course:

					Y/N
7	SY7005	Critical Theories of International Relations	30	Core	N
7	AI7405	Global Environmental Politics	30	Core	N
7	SY7002	Research Methods for Social Science	30	Core	N
7	SY7001	Policy and Practice of Humanitarianism and Development (Mental Wealth)	30	Core	N
7	SY7003	Independent Applied Research Project	30	Core	N
7	LA7002	International Human Rights	30	Option*	N
7	AI7401	Introduction to Conflict, Displacement and Human Security	30	Option	N
7	SY7000	Forced Migration in the Global Era	30	Option	N

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

You will study six modules per year and a full time student, and three per year part time over two years. There are five core modules and one option. The Research Methods for Social Sciences module enables you to plan a research project in an area of you own interest and the Independent Applied Research Project supports you in carrying out your project.

A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

*LA7002 International Human Rights, is a core module for all Distance learning students.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 180 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

There are no course specific regulations.

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

The duration of this course is one calendar year full-time if enrolment is in September, and two calendar years part-time. For February enrolment, the duration becomes 15 months full time, and 27 months part-time.

The time limit for completion of a course is four years after first enrolment on the course.

Distance learning students study one module at a time in part time mode. In this mode the course typically takes between two and three years to complete.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:
- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional

costs: None

Alternative Locations of Delivery

None