MA Euro-Asian Politics and Diplomacy
For students entering in 2005

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences	Programme length: 12 months

Date of specification: September 2005
Programme Director: Dr Yelena Kalyuzhnova
Board of Studies: MA/MSc Economics
Accreditation: N/A

Summary of programme aims
The programme aims to provide a thorough postgraduate education in the area of Euro-Asian Politics and Diplomacy.   The main issues in regional politics and economics are canvassed and special attention is paid to the role of diplomatic law and practice in the region.

Transferable skills
The programme requires a substantial amount of independent reading, research and study and students are expected to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field of study. They will also need to enhance their communication skills (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, and the use of information technology. Students will work under pressure of time throughout the programme and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. Career planning will be an integral part of the programme, both in the choice of programme and in its elective components.

Programme content
Students register for a 12 month programme comprising taught modules and a dissertation.

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
	Compulsory Modules		
PIM21	Contemporary Diplomacy	30	M
ECM48	Issues in Euro-Asian Studies I	20	M
ECM49	Issues in Euro-Asian Studies II	20	M
ECM60	Dissertation	40	M
ECM52	Interdisciplinary seminar on recent developments in Euro-Asia	10	M
	Optional Modules		
	60 credits of modules selected from		
ECM44	Business and Management in Emerging Markets I	20	M
ECM53	Economic Development in Emerging Markets I	20	M
ECM54	Economic Development in Emerging Markets II	20	M
LWM02A	International Human Rights	30	M
PIM03	Conflict & Conflict Resolution	30	M
PIM11	International Security Studies	30	M
PIM18	Strategic Studies	30	M
PIM17	Terrorism and Security	30	M

Part-time/Modular arrangements
The programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years by arrangement with the Director of Postgraduate Studies in Economics. The dissertation will be presented by 5.00 p.m. on the first Friday in September at the end of the second year of study.

Progression requirements
Students wishing to proceed to a higher degree by research should normally have followed the 12 month programme and obtained an average of at least 60% in the modules and at least 60% in the dissertation.

Summary of teaching and assessment
Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among the modules, specially in the proportion of time allocated to lectures, classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms reflecting the aims of the module. Final assessment of the core modules involves a 2 hour examination (weight 70%) and coursework (weight 30%). A dissertation supervisor is appointed for each student.
The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark	Interpretation
70-100%	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
50-59%	Good Standard (Pass)
Failing categories	
40-49%	Work below threshold standard
0-39%	Unsatisfactory Work

To pass the MSc students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked at 40-49% must not exceed 40 credits and no module mark must fall below 40. 50% or more in the dissertation is also required.

Students who gain an average mark of 70% or above, including a mark of 60% or more in the dissertation (if applicable) and no mark below 50% will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining a mark of 60%, including a mark of 50% or more in the dissertation (if applicable) may be eligible for a Merit pass.

Admission requirements
(a)   Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained an upper second class honours degree or equivalent.
(b)   Admissions Tutor: Dr Yelena Kalyuzhnova

Support for students and their learning
University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Programme Directors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Adviser, Study Advisers, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

The Programme Director acts as personal tutor to the student and also interviews every student before the beginning of term to offer advice on the operation of the degree programme and on the choice of options. Many of the students are from countries outside the UK and the tutors are therefore careful to ensure that students settle down in their new surroundings and understand the requirements of the MSc programme. The initial interview is also useful in detecting whether students have some language problems (despite obtaining an IELTS score of 6.5), in which case they are strongly advised to register for language tuition. All Autumn term modules set a test at the end of the term with the primary purpose of familiarising students with the UK examination system and the requirements of the programme. Students who fail overall on their modules are identified and invited to discuss their problems with their tutor. In addition to lecture and class times, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment. The Centre for Euro-Asian Studies also provides a Handbook with details of each module and a Handbook covering the MSc programmes as a whole, including details of the method of assessment of programmes.

Career Prospects
Students will be prepared for a variety of positions touching on politics and diplomacy in the Euro-Asian region, including work in diplomacy and journalism or work with international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Students from outside the UK return to employment in their home countries (sponsored students return to their sponsoring ministry/organisation). A minority of students proceed to a PhD and enter academic/research or international organisations.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
The programme does not involve study abroad. However, students may be considered for brief internships at the Royal Institute of International Affairs or other organizations in London.

Educational aims of the programme
Students should develop the ability to make an interdisciplinary analysis of political and diplomatic issues in the Euro-Asian region. To do so they will acquire a familiarity with the region, using analytical tools from, among other disciplines, politics and law. As well, students should acquire the intellectual and practical skills expected of students with a postgraduate qualification.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:		*Teaching/learning methods and strategies*
1. Geopolitics of the Newly Independent States of Euro-Asia. 2. The domestic politics of the region's states. 3. Legal and other aspects of diplomacy, especially as they relate to Euro-Asia.	→	Formal lectures, seminars, individual and group presentations, guided reading and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feedback and guidance are important elements of the programme complementing an emphasis on self-study. *Assessment* Unseen, timed examinations and coursework comprising long essays, projects, presentations and tests

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to		*Teaching/learning methods and strategies*
1. Structure, analyse and evaluate theoretical and policy issues and problems. 2. Think logically and analytically and to understand the difference between normative and positive statements. 3. Develop legal reasoning skills in order to grasp the fundamentals of diplomatic law. 4. Comprehend the rapidly evolving state of knowledge and institutional environment in the subject area.	→	Students are frequently challenged in all teaching situations to make logical arguments, analyse problems and alternative policies, justify statements and analyse legal instruments. Long essays, debate and presentations provide the principle vehicles for developing intellectual skills. *Assessment* Formal examination and coursework.

C. Practical skills - able to		*Teaching/learning methods and strategies*
1. Draw on the knowledge base in the fields of study to suggest political and diplomatic policies and strategies 2. Evaluate current theoretical and empirical research in the fields of study. 3. Identify potential sources of information and analysis relevant to the issue and problems in the field of study. 4. Construct and present (orally and in writing) defensible arguments.	→	Students are required to engage with a wide range of readings, both through assigned reading lists and through independent research. They must critically evaluate and assess this literature in the context of presenting advanced arguments both orally and in writing. Student will be required regularly to participate in class discussions and make presentations. *Assessment* Formal examination and coursework.

D. Transferable skills - able to		*Teaching/learning methods and strategies*
1. Communicate orally and in writing. 2. Use IT, including internet research. 3. Use library based resources. 4. Organise extended pieces of work from planning to completion. 5. Manage time, prioritise work and work independently.	→	The presentation of well researched written work is a fundamental element of the programme and requires the application of all of the skills listed in 1-5. This is reinforced by the breadth and depth of the syllabuses for each module and the highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work, and examinations which develop the students' time management skills. Oral skills are developed through lecture and seminar discussions and individual and group presentations. *Assessment* Both examination and coursework with 3 being assessed mostly in essays and project work.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.