

## Programme Specification

MA International Security Studies (full-time)

PFTZISSXXXHM

MA International Security Studies (part-time)

PPTZISSXXXHM

**For students entering in 2019/20**

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Awarding Institution  | University of Reading  |
| Teaching Institution  | University of Reading  |
| Length of Programme   | MA International Security Studies (full-time) - 12 months<br>MA International Security Studies (part-time) - 2 years |
| Accreditation         | N/A  |
| Programme Start Dates | September  |

### Programme information and content

The programme aims to equip students with a thorough understanding of key theories, concepts and scholarly debates related to international and global security, broadly defined, and their relationship to contemporary security problems. As well, it aims to provide students with empirical knowledge of specific security issues, especially since the Cold War period, and with the ability to critically analyse these. Opportunities for specialisation are offered in various areas of strategic studies, diplomacy and conflict resolution, and the international relations and politics of particular regions.

### Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Compulsory modules

| Module | Name   | Credits | Level |
|--------|--|---------|-------|
| PIM12  | Dissertation   | 60      | M     |
| PIM63  | International Relations Theory   | 20      | M     |
| PIM64  | International Security Studies   | 20      | M     |
| PIM85  | Introduction to Qualitative research methods in Politics and International Relations | 20      | M     |

The remaining credits will be taken from a list of optional modules from the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations. Up to 20 credits may be replaced with modules from an approved list from across the University.

#### Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years. Dissertations are submitted at the end of the second year of study.

### Additional costs of the programme

Students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support the curriculum, including textbooks, electronic resources and computer facilities are available through the library and through the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

### **Optional modules**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Placement opportunities**

There are no placement opportunities as part of this programme.

### **Teaching and learning delivery**

Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching will primarily be by means of seminars. Certain modules may be partially taught by means of lectures and tutorials.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 145 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

### **Assessment**

Modules are assessed in a variety of ways, including essay, in class test and examination.

### **Progression**

#### **Part-time and modular progression requirements**

There are no specific progression requirements that part-time students need to meet before they can progress into the second year.

## **Classification**

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

### *For Masters Degree*

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits

### *For PG Diploma*

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits

*For PG Certificate*

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- ii. students must not have any mark below 40.

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

MA International Security Studies (full-time) for students entering in session 2019/20  
23 September 2019

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