

Programme Specification

MRes Politics and International Relations (full-time)	PFTZPOLIREHS
MRes Politics and International Relations (modular, part-time)	PPTZPOLIREFS
MRes Politics and International Relations (part-time)	PPTZPOLIREHS

For students entering in 2021/22

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	MRes Politics and International Relations (full-time) - 12 months MRes Politics and International Relations (modular, part-time) - 6 years MRes Politics and International Relations (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The MRes in Politics and International Relations is designed primarily to prepare students for study at doctoral level, though it is also suitable for anyone else wishing to pursue research into political issues. It is particularly suitable for students who have a Master's degree that did not involve a substantial research training element, or for students who do not have a Master's degree but do have some background in the fields of Politics and International Relations. The core modules provide in-depth training in social science research methods and research philosophy. Additional, substantive modules are chosen from across the modules available on MA programmes within the Department of Politics and International Relations in consultation with the programme director and prospective dissertation supervisor. The dissertation will, in most cases, take the form of a research template and pilot in order to prepare for doctoral work.

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
PIM54	Philosophical Issues in the Social Sciences	20	M

The remaining credits will be taken from a list of optional modules from the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations, or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years with the dissertation being 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 your curriculum, including textbooks, electronic resources and computer facilities are available through the library and through both the Department of Economics and 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.

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.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

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 140 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.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways, depending on the modules selected. Assessment may include any combination of the following: formal written examination; essay, dissertation, class test, oral presentation, set exercise and practical.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

None

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. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

In addition, for all classifications above, students must obtain a mark of at least 40% in PIM54 and either PIM85 or PIM86.

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.

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17 August 2020

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