Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.
1. Introduction

The MA International Relations has been designed to build on research expertise and experience within the School of Humanities. Students are encouraged to apply theory to case studies and real-world events to better understand the actions of governmental and non-governmental actors; international bodies and transnational business entities in relation to key contemporary challenges such as the impact of globalisation and de-globalisation; diplomacy and the limits of diplomacy; and physical and human insecurity.

An important element of the course is the emphasis on the connection between the theoretical bases of International Relations and the way in which this theory is translated into practical application. Students are given insights into the perspectives and motivations of policy and decision makers, as well as the impact of policy on individuals, communities and states. The academic staff in the School of Humanities produce world-class research and publications and maintain an outstanding network of professional contacts who facilitate workshops and liaise with students as part of their studies. These contacts include diplomatic practitioners in a range of prestigious external organisations such as Chatham House; the Centre for the Study of Slavery; and the Royal African Society, as well as experts in the security sphere from Italian anti-mafia authorities to former senior police officers involved in tackling terrorism in Northern Ireland and current senior staff at the UK's National Crime Agency. Students are also given the opportunity to test their classroom learning against real world examples by undertaking field work in countries including Belgium & Holland, The Gambia and Italy.

Students receive extensive academic and pastoral support including a module dedicated to imparting the critical thinking skills and academic competences needed to succeed at postgraduate level, notably the capacities to analyse, evaluate and construct coherent and convincing scholarly arguments. Students also address principles of consultancy and the theories and practices found in leadership through an integrated module that leads to an additional CMI-recognised vocational qualification.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Award</th>
<th>Mode of attendance</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA International Relations</td>
<td>FT – 12 months PT – 24 months</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations</td>
<td>FT – 12 months PT – 24 months</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>('Fall-back' award only)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations</td>
<td>FT – 12 months PT – 24 months</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>('Fall-back' award only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Awarding Institution/Body

Coventry University.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>4 Collaboration</strong></th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery</strong></td>
<td>Coventry University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **6 Internal Approval/Review Dates** | Date of latest review: November 2018  
Date for next review: Academic year 2024/2025 |
| **7 Course Accredited by** | N/A |
| **8 Accreditation Date and Duration** | N/A |
| **9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors** | There are currently no Subject Benchmarks Statements specific to this course.  
Reference is made to the QAA document 'Master’s Degrees Characteristics' (2015):  
[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master%27s-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master%27s-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10) And to:  
The Descriptor for a Higher Education Qualification at Level 7 on the Framework for  
Higher Education Qualifications (2014) includes generic information about what all holders of the master's qualification are able to do, and the qualities and skills that they have:  
[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf)  
Descriptor for a qualification at Master’s (M) level: Master’s degree  
Much of the study undertaken at Master’s level will have been at, or informed by, the forefront of an academic or professional discipline. Students will have shown originality in the application of knowledge, and they will understand how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research. They will be able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, and they will show originality in tackling and solving problems.  
They will have the qualities needed for employment in circumstances requiring sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative, in complex and unpredictable professional environments. |
| **10 Date of Course Specification** | November 2018 |
| **11 Course Director** | Dr Simon Massey |

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

1. To provide a research-inspired programme where students can acquire up-to-date knowledge and develop a critical understanding of the discipline of International Relations, the practice of international diplomacy, and mechanisms employed to mitigate conflict between states;  
2. To provide students with a critical understanding of the changing environment within which relations between states and other organisations in the international system occur;  
3. To develop the students’ powers of analysis and judgement with a focus on the discipline of International Relations;  
4. To provide a creative, innovative and inclusive academic programme that is accessible to students from a variety of educational backgrounds;
5. To provide a stimulating learning environment, with a strong international and inter-cultural outlook, where students can access appropriate resources and different learning contexts enabling them to work both independently and in diverse groups;
6. To provide opportunities for all students to fulfil their potential through careful student support and guidance;
7. To produce graduates who possess key subject, professional and intercultural skills geared towards a variety of career paths in the public, private and voluntary sectors and towards community engagement.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

The course learning outcomes have been mapped against the 6 pillars of the Coventry University’s Education Strategy:
  a) Creativity & enterprise
  b) Intercultural & international engagement
  c) Community contribution and responsibility
  d) Innovation & digital fluency
  e) Employability
  f) Research-inspired teaching
Please note the relevant pillar has been referenced against each course outcome.

On successful completion of the course a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights related to International Relations, much of which is at, or informed by research at, the forefront of their field of study (a, b, d, e);
2. Exhibit a critical understanding of contemporary threats to states and individuals in the areas of both physical (in)security and human security (a, b, d, e);
3. Command a comprehensive understanding of techniques, standards and ethics applicable to their own research, with an ability to evaluate different theoretical and methodological approaches and frameworks, applicable to research and problem solving in an academic or employment context alike (a, b, c, e);
4. Demonstrate innovation in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge (b, c, f);
5. Manage complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly via a variety of mediums to specialist and non-specialist audiences (a, b, c, f);
6. Demonstrate self-direction and enterprise in tackling and solving problems, and act both autonomously and in groups in planning and implementing tasks (a, b, c, e);
7. Demonstrate organisational skills: manage time effectively, to set objectives and to evaluate the performance of oneself and others. (b, c, e);
8. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles of consultancy and the theories and practices found in leadership (a, b, c, d, e, f).

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>7011HUM</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>7021HUM</td>
<td>Applied International Relations Theory</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>7015HUM</td>
<td>Diplomacy and the International System</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>7022HUM</td>
<td>Critical International Political Economy</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>7016HUM</td>
<td>Governance for Security in the Developing World</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>7017HUM</td>
<td>Threats to Global Security</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>7018HUM</td>
<td>Changing character of war and Terrorism</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>7019HUM</td>
<td>International Security Praxis</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>7002CRB</td>
<td>Global Professional Development - Consultancy</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>7000HUM</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There is no May intake for this course.

**Global Professional Development**
The programme has an embedded module, Global Professional Development, which has been developed with the Chartered Institute of Management (CMI). Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI evidence requirements will gain an L7 Certificate in Strategic Leadership and Management and an L7 Award in Professional Consulting, based on the following units:
1. Strategic Leadership (Unit 7013V1 from the L7 Strategic Management and Leadership qualification)
2. Strategic Leadership Practice (Unit 7021V1 from the L7 Strategic Management and Leadership qualification)
3. Tools and Techniques for Effective Consultancy (Unit 7031 from the L7 Professional Consulting qualification)
This will enable students to apply for Chartered Manager status via the qualified route, once the other entry criteria have been met.

**Cascade of Awards:**

MA International Relations (180 credits)

↓

Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations (120 credits)

↓

Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations (60 credits)

The diploma and certificate are 'fall-back' awards only for students unable to complete the Masters course.

Modules within the course, their status (whether mandatory or options), the levels at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified in the table below. The
15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

The admissions team seek to recruit individuals who have the ability to complete and benefit from the course. Applicants should normally hold a good undergraduate degree, in a social science or humanities related subject, or equivalent international grade/qualification, from a recognised University.

EU and overseas applicants will be considered if they possess equivalent qualifications from other national educational systems and a proficient knowledge of English (normally the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English, IELTS or equivalent at point 6.5 or above). The Recruitment and Admissions Office has a detailed table of these “equivalences” for these qualifications and these will be consulted by the Admissions Tutor to determine the suitability of EU and overseas applicants.

Non-standard applications will be considered. Admission will be considered if the applicant can demonstrate knowledge of the subject, proficiency in English, and the potential to complete the course successfully. This is usually demonstrated by the submission of written work and an interview with the course team.

Prior to applying, students should satisfy themselves that they can meet immigration regulations enabling them to travel on the 7019HUM fieldtrip, should this optional trip be undertaken.


We have significant experience with students with a range of disabilities and special needs, including the participation of students with special needs on study trips. In most cases we can accommodate the specific requirements of disabled students and make reasonable adjustments to the course. Based on advice from the University these courses will comply with SENDA 2001 and Equality Act of 2010.

Students with any disability, illness or other circumstance which may affect their learning experience are actively encouraged to discuss any concerns with academic staff.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard University Academic Regulations, Postgraduate Mode R.

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The Course is managed by the Humanities Board of Study of the Faculty of Arts and Humanity.

The Programme Assessment Board (PAB) for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry’s website.

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty/School Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year.

Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires.

Peer and teaching observations are carried out to enhance learning and teaching on the programme.
The majority of the course team are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

The academic tutors delivering the course are research active and have published extensively in the field of organised crime, modern slavery and related disciplines (e.g. politics and international relations).

**External recognition of quality**

- The School has a strong portfolio of academic research, and submitted a ‘Politics and International Studies’ return in the last Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014;
- The University has regularly been named Modern University of the Year by the Sunday Times, and by the Times Higher Education.
- The University was awarded a Gold ranking in the 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)
- Coventry University has consistently recorded an above average ‘overall positive student experience’ score in the 2016 national Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) undertaken by the Higher Education Academy (HEA)

The report of QAA’s Institutional Audit undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that:
- The maintenance of the academic standards of awards offered on behalf of degree-awarding bodies and/or other awarding organisations meets UK expectations.
- The quality of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations.
- The quality of the information about learning opportunities meets UK expectations.
- The enhancement of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations.

**18 Additional Information**

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including:

- An induction programme introducing the University and the course
- The support of a Course Director and module leaders
- Access to employability tutors
- Student Handbook
- Course Handbook
- Module Guides
- Moodle Course & Module Webs
- Module Information Directory https://webapp.coventry.ac.uk/MidWebCurr/Main.aspx
- Welfare Service https://share.coventry.ac.uk/students/Welfare/Pages/default.aspx
- Careers Service https://share.coventry.ac.uk/students/Careers/Pages/CAREERS-HOMEPAGE.aspx
- Centre for Academic Writing https://share.coventry.ac.uk/students/CentreforAcademicWriting/Pages/Home.aspx
- Coventry University Student Portal https://share.coventry.ac.uk/students/Pages/Index.aspx