



MA International Relations

AHT023

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

School of Humanities

2021/2022

Please note: This specification is applicable to May 2020/2021 entrants.

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.

Coventry University's accreditation with CMI is currently ongoing for the relevant modules and is regularly reviewed and monitored by the CMI through their quality systems. Whilst Coventry University anticipates that these reviews will continue to be successful, if they were to be unsuccessful, the relevant module in this course would no longer be accredited and we would notify applicants and students of this change as soon as possible.

PART A Course Specification (Published Document)

MA International Relations

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.

As part of this course you will undertake a professional development module which is currently accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Upon successful completion of the module, you will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

Professional Experience

During semester one, students can apply for the extended route, which offers an opportunity to reflect upon and gain professional experience through three semesters of internship or placement* with a host of different organisations. Students can also undertake or participate in supervised, campus-based University projects. The professional experience supports the development of students' personal and professional skills, such as communication, team-working, self-management, project working and critical reflection to enhance their future employability. This experience will build up on students' previous learning and experiences and encourage them to reflect on their work and skill sets prior to undertaking the final sixty credits of M level study.

Professional experience placements may be paid or unpaid, and this will depend on what is being offered and agreed with the host organisation. Internships can be international, within the UK or may be internal, within the University. Students who secure appropriate campus-based professional experience, may undertake supervised projects, related research and activities designed to offer students the opportunity to develop and integrate curriculum related skills with an understanding of professional practice.

*Internships and placements are subject to competitive application, availability and additional fees.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study			
Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
MA International Relations Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations ('Fall-back' award only) Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations ('Fall-back' award only)	FT – 12 months/2 4 months with professional experience placement PT – 24 months	N/A	Level 7
3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University.		
4 Collaboration	N/A		
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University		
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	<p>There are currently no Subject Benchmarks Statements specific to this course.</p> <p>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 And to:</p> <p>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</p> <p>Descriptor for a qualification at Master's (M) level: Master's degree</p> <p>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.</p> <p>They will have the qualities needed for employment in circumstances requiring sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative, in complex and unpredictable professional environments.</p>		
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 an 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. Critically evaluate the principles for leading and developing people and equality, diversity and inclusion at a strategic level (e).

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

September Intake			
Semester	Module code	Module title	Credits
Autumn	7011HUM	Critical Thinking	15
Autumn	7021HUM	Applied International Relations Theory	15
Autumn	7020HUM	Diplomacy and the International System	15
Autumn	7061HUM	Resilience in the International System	15
Spring	7016HUM	Governance for Security in the Developing World	15
Spring	7017HUM	Threats to Global Security	15
Spring	7018HUM	Changing character of war and Terrorism	15
Spring	7019HUM	International Security Praxis	15
Summer	7049CRB	Leading Diverse Workforces	10
Summer	7000HUM	Dissertation	50

January Intake			
Semester	Module code	Module title	Credits
Spring	7011HUM	Critical Thinking	15
Spring	7021HUM	Applied International Relations Theory	15
Spring	7020HUM	Diplomacy and the International System	15
Spring	7061HUM	Resilience in the International System	15
Summer	7018HUM	Changing Character of War and Terrorism	15
Summer	7016HUM	Governance for Security in the Developing World	15
Summer	7017HUM	Threats to Global Security	15
Summer	7019HUM	International Security Praxis	15
Autumn	7049CRB	Leading Diverse Workforces	10
Autumn	7000HUM	Dissertation	50

May Intake			
Semester	Module code	Module title	Credits
Summer	7018HUM	Changing Character of War and Terrorism	15
Summer	7016HUM	Governance for Security in the Developing World	15
Summer	7017HUM	Threats to Global Security	15
Summer	7019HUM	International Security Praxis	15
Autumn	7011HUM	Critical Thinking	15
Autumn	7021HUM	Applied International Relations Theory	15
Autumn	7020HUM	Diplomacy and the International System	15
Autumn	7061HUM	Resilience in the International System	15
Spring	7049CRB	Leading Diverse Workforces	10
Spring	7000HUM	Dissertation	50

Leading Diverse Workforces

Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Leading and developing people to optimise performance (unit 702); Strategic approaches to diversity and Inclusion (unit 715).

Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

Professional Experience

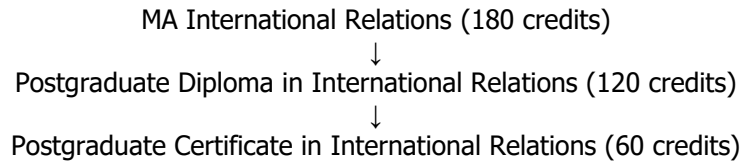
Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory/Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
<i>Subject to securing an appropriate placement opportunity and fulfilling the selection requirements, students will be transferred to the two-year course and the zero credit modules listed below are to be taken.</i>					
7	7088HUM	Extended Masters HUM Professional Experience Module A	0	Optional	
7	7089HUM	Extended Masters HUM Professional Experience Module B	0	Optional	
7	7090HUM	Extended Masters HUM Professional Experience Module C	0	Optional	

The work placement is to be taken over three semesters and prior to the final dissertation/project that must be taken in the final semester of the course.

During semester 1, students who have expressed an interest in undertaking a work placement or internship should begin the application process for these opportunities. Students have the responsibility for securing a placement/internship. They will be supported throughout the application process by a specialist employer engagement team. The university will work with employers to identify opportunities. Subject to securing a placement/internship, the International Student Support team will work with international students to obtain UK study visa extensions. Visas required to work in other countries will be the responsibility of the student.

The course is structured so that students complete two semesters of taught modules and then could spend three semesters on professional experience placement. During this time students would be enrolled onto modules 7088HUM, 7089HUM, and 7090HUM. The modules are zero credit and do not contribute to the classification of the award but must be passed to complete the placement. Upon completion of the work placement, students would return to Coventry to complete the final semester during which time they undertake their project module which may be informed by the learning acquired during the professional experience.

Cascade of Awards:



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.

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7011HUM	Critical Thinking	15	Mandatory	3, 5, 6, 7
7	7021HUM	Applied International Relations Theory	15	Mandatory	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
7	7020HUM	Diplomacy and the International System	15	Mandatory	1, 3, 5, 7,
7	7061HUM	Resilience in the International System	15	Mandatory	1, 3, 5, 7
7	7016HUM	Governance for Security in the Developing World	15	Mandatory	2, 4, 5, 7
7	7017HUM	Threats to Global Security	15	Mandatory	3, 4, 5, 7
7	7018HUM	Changing character of war and Terrorism	15	Mandatory	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
7	7019HUM	International Security Praxis	15	Mandatory	3, 4, 6, 7
7	7049CRB	Leading Diverse Workforces	10	Mandatory	3, 4, 7, 8
7	7000HUM	Dissertation	50	Mandatory	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

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.

Compliance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the Equality Act of 2010.

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 web site.

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
- Talent Team

- Student Handbook
 - Course Handbook
 - Module Guides
 - 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>
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