

## ANNEX 2

### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of study
MA	Political Science (Research)	12 months	Full time
MA	Political Science (Research)	27 months	Part time
PgDip	Political Science (Research) – Exit route only	9 months	Full time
PgDip	Political Science (Research) – Exit route only	21 months	Part time

<b>School</b>	School of Social Sciences
<b>Faculty</b>	The Faculty of Humanities
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	The University of Manchester
<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	ESRC recognition
<b>Relevant QAA benchmark(s)</b>	There are no benchmark statements at postgraduate level for this subject area. The programme conforms to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

#### 9 EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

*The programme aims to:*

- Provide an advanced, systematic and critical understanding of issues at the forefront of political science via one of five related subject-specific pathways: European Politics & Public Policy, Political Theory, Governance & Public Policy, and Democracy and Elections.
- Provide an advanced critical awareness of the location of political science, as seen through one of the three pathways, within the wider field of social science, both in terms of its subject matter and the most prominent theoretical and methodological orientations within it.
- Prepare students for PhD-level research in political science and other subsequent research endeavours.
- Provide research practice through a required dissertation linked to a research programme located within the department and supervised by an active researcher.
- Train students to become autonomous and self-aware life-long learners, able to apply their existing knowledge and skills in innovative ways in a variety of contexts.
- Enable students' to communicate their acquired knowledge and research findings to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- To contribute to the national need for skilled researchers in politics in particular and the social sciences more generally.

#### 10 PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

##### **10.1 Knowledge & Understanding**

##### **A Knowledge & Understanding of**

1. Major areas of advanced debate and research innovation in one of five\_key sub-fields of contemporary political science including:

a) The development of theoretical and conceptual thinking in the chosen pathway with particular reference to debates around the definition of the field, the key issues raised within it, and key approaches to inquiry and analysis that have been adopted.

b) Key methodological and conceptual debates at the foreground of contemporary research within the chosen pathway, with

##### **Teaching/learning methods**

Combination of interactive seminar learning, independent supervised study, and practical exercises. All these apply to all outcomes, but 1 (a, b) are particularly developed through seminar-based learning in pathway-specific core modules and 1 (c) is particularly developed through optional pathway modules and production of a supervised dissertation. 2, 3 and 4 are developed through a combination of interactive seminars, workshops and practical exercises within generic and discipline-specific research training modules. The dissertation, which is also a research proposal, is a key task and engages all the outcomes above, particularly 1 (b), 2, 3, and 4.

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<p>emphasis on contemporary approaches and on developing awareness of the arguments and, where applicable, the type and veracity of the empirical evidence used to support them.</p> <p>c) Through a range of pathway-specific optional modules (and where relevant optional modules from other pathways) the application of theoretical and methodological knowledge to a range of substantive issue areas of relevance to the students' individual research interests at both the Masters and PhD levels.</p> <p>2. The relationship between political science (as seen primarily through one of the five pathways) and cognate fields such as international politics, as well as related disciplines such as history, sociology, economics and moral philosophy, and the contributions such cognate fields and related disciplines might make to the students' specific research interests.</p> <p>3. A range of research methods and techniques and critical debates about their application, including knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p>a) Techniques and principles of quantitative analysis, using SPSS or Windows (including surveys and sampling, exploratory data analysis and basic data analysis) in accordance with ESRC requirements</p> <p>b) Techniques and principles of qualitative analysis (including participant observation, semi-structured and unstructured interviews, various techniques of textual and discourse analysis, archival and documentary analysis and grounded theory) in accordance with ESRC requirements</p> <p>c) The principles of research design and strategy including the formulation of feasible and meaningful research questions, especially as applied in political analysis.</p> <p>4. Key issues (philosophical, political and ethical) in research practice in the social sciences generally and research in political science in particular.</p>	<p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Summative assessment of all outcomes is provided through a combination of assessed presentation exercises within seminars, essays and the dissertation. Formative assessment is provided via written feedback on presentation exercises and assessed essays, the supervisory relationship (all students on this programme are deemed to be intending to proceed to PhD and are provided with a research supervisor and supervisory board from the outset), self-assessment, and peer review and comment (especially in the seminar setting).</p>
<p><b>10.2 Skills and other attributes</b></p>	
<p><b>B Intellectual (thinking) skills - able to</b></p> <p>1. Synthesise and analyse complex issues in social science generally and political science (as seen through a specific subject pathway) specifically in a critical and systematic way</p> <p>2. Compare and critique a comprehensive range of methodologies</p> <p>3. Plan, conduct and report on self-directed research within a range of formats, to voice</p>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>Supervised independent study, interactive seminar learning, essay preparation and execution, oral presentations, workshops, and practical research design exercises. All these methods relate to all the outcomes under B.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p>

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<p>(short oral presentations, essays and a dissertation)</p> <p>4. Reflect critically on the relationship between research context and one's own role as a researcher</p>	<p>Summative: seminar presentations, workshop-based exercises, presentation exercises, seminar participation assessment, essays and a dissertation.</p> <p>Formative: self-evaluation, peer review in the seminar setting, supervisors reports, and formal and informal comment on oral presentations and essays.</p>
<p><b>C Practical skills - able to</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage library and bibliographic resources, including on-line, and build up an on-going bibliography for use as a professional research tool</li> <li>2. Collect and record quantitative and qualitative data, using a variety of techniques such as questionnaires, interviews, participation and observation and archival research</li> <li>3. Analyse and present quantitative and qualitative data, including large data sets, using a variety of statistical techniques and such qualitative techniques as discourse analysis</li> <li>4. Teach small groups at undergraduate level, including assessment of written work and provision of feedback on it. (This skill is not a required outcome of the programme, but training provision exists for it.)</li> <li>5. Clearly communicate research findings in oral and written form to specialist and non-specialist academic audiences and participate effectively as part of such audiences</li> <li>6. Speak another language. (This skill is not a required outcome of the programme, but training provision exists for it, primarily for acquisition of another international language)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>1-3 and 5 are developed through Interactive seminars (and especially through presentation exercises), independent supervised learning, essay planning and writing, dissertation proposal preparation and execution, workshops (especially in use of qualitative and quantitative data), oral and written formative feedback on seminar performance, essay writing and dissertation preparation, personal academic development plans. C5 is particularly developed in a compulsory dissertation design module that includes the teaching and practice of effective audience participation as well as participation in the departmental seminar programme. C6 can be developed either through formal assessed modules incorporating many of the teaching and learning methods outlined above or non-assessed language-lab tuition. C4 is provided through an optional dedicated course unit based on workshops and practical exercises.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Summative: The dissertation/research proposal is a key task which allows assessment of many of these skills, especially C1 -3. Essays and seminar presentations also allow the assessment of these elements as well as 5. Language acquisition (C6) may be assessed through formal examination (if tuition is primarily through classroom-based course units) or through self-evaluation (if tuition is language-lab based).</p> <p>Formative: Feedback from supervisor to student, peer feedback (especially in a compulsory dissertation research design module), feedback on essays and feedback from undergraduates on tutorial teaching skills are all ways in which all these practical skills are evaluated.</p>
<p><b>D Transferable skills - able to</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearly communicate, in writing and orally, complex material in a systematic, comprehensive and context-sensitive way to academic and non-academic audiences</li> <li>2. Effectively manage and schedule complex research processes</li> <li>3. Find information and use information technology</li> <li>4. Develop an independent learning ability</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>Seminars, independent supervised learning, essay-writing, seminar presentations, dissertation/research proposal preparation and writing, practical research exercises, computer-based practical exercises, language laboratory learning, personal academic development plans. All these teaching and learning methods relate to these skills.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Summative: The dissertation/research proposal is a key task which allows assessment all 4 skills. Essays and presentations also allow the assessment of these elements, particularly D1-3.</p> <p>Formative: Feedback from supervisor to student, peer feedback, feedback on essays and feedback from undergraduates on tutorial teaching skills are all ways in which all four transferable skills can be evaluated.</p>

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### PROGRAMMES STRUCTURES AND FEATURES, CURRICULUM UNITS, CREDIT AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

For more details see Programme Handbook(s).

Year	Course structure (credits)	Outcomes and progression
1	<p><b>Compulsory</b></p> <p><b>Generic research training course units</b>            Quantitative Methods (15) (Sem 1)            Qualitative Methods (15) (Sem 1 / 2)            Philosophy of Politics Research (15) (Sem 1)            Dissertation Research Design (15) (Sem 2)            MA Dissertation (60)            Health &amp; Safety (0)  <i>Plus</i></p> <p><b>Political Theory pathway core course units</b>            Political Theory Research Training (15) (Sem 1)            Debating Justice (15) (Sem 1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Or</i></p> <p><b>European Politics and Policy pathway core course units</b>            EU Politics and Policymaking (15) (Sem 1)            Politics of Europeanization (15) Sem 2)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Or</i></p> <p><b>Governance and Public Policy pathway core course units</b>            Understanding Governance (or EU Politics and Policymaking if Understanding Governance is not available) (15) (Sem 1)            Governance and the Welfare State (15) (Sem 2)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Or</i></p> <p><b>Democracy and Elections pathway core course units</b>            Political Parties in Contemporary Britain (or Comparative Citizen Politics) (15) (Sem 2)            Democracy: Theory and Practice (15) (Sem 2)</p> <p><b>Options</b>            Two specialist course units, at least one of which must come from a pathway-specific list. Students, in consultation with the supervisor and/or the MA Tutor, may choose the other of their optional modules from any of the other two pathway-specific lists of optional modules or, if clearly justified by their intended doctoral research, from optional courses within the MA Politics programme or other cognate MA programmes within the School of Social Sciences. *</p> <p><b>Additional optional courses</b>            Language training (no credits)</p>	<p>MA: Minimum 50% in all units with compensation arrangements* *</p> <p>For ESRC-funded students seeking transfer to '+3' of '1+3' Programme: 60% for dissertation</p> <p>All outcomes listed under 10 are developed in this year</p>

\*See Programme Handbook for details.

\*\* See School of Social Sciences Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students for details

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### 12 CURRICULUM SKILLS MAP

Course Unit/Code			Intellectual Skills				Practical Skills						Transferable Skills			
			B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4
Level1	C	Quantitative Methods	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA	DA				DA	DA		D
	C	Qualitative Methods	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA	DA				DA	DA		D
	C	Philosophy of Politics Research	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA				DA		DA			D
	C	Dissertation Research Design	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA			DA		DA	DA	D	DA
	C	Pathway-specific core course unit I	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA		DA	DA	D	D
	C	Pathway-specific core course unit II	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA		DA	DA	D	D
	O	Pathway specific optional course	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA		DA	DA	D	D
	O	Optional course	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA		DA			D
	C	Dissertation	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA	DA	D	DA
	O	Language Training										DA				D

**C= compulsory course unit**

**O= optional course unit**

**D = skills are taught or developed by students within this course unit**

**A = skills are assessed within this course unit**

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### 13 CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions criteria of the University of Manchester and the Politics discipline in the following way:

Minimum 2:1 Honours degree (or overseas equivalent) in a Social Science subject

All candidates who do not fulfil the MA examination requirements (including compensation and resit arrangements) but fulfil the diploma examination requirements are eligible for award of the PG Diploma.

IELTS - overall score of 7, including 7 in writing with no further component score below 6.0

TOEFL IBT - overall score of 100 with 25 in each section.

TOEFL code for Manchester is 0757

Scores are valid for 2 years.

For students who require a Tier 4 visa to study in the UK, your test score is valid for 2 years preceding the start date of the course. CAS statements will be issued from June-September 2016.

Further details are available on the School of Social Sciences website:

<http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/list/political-science-democracy-and-elections-standard-route-ma/?pg=3>

### 14 ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

#### **Assessment Rules and Classifications**

Minimum pass mark for each course unit is 50%.

40-49% Pass at PG diploma

50-59% Pass at MA

60-69% Pass at MA with Merit

70+% Pass at MA with Distinction

Candidates for the MA are required to pass 8 x 15 credits course modules and a compulsory 12-15,000 word 60 credits dissertation according to the MA examination regulations (including compensation and resit arrangements).

Full details of assessment and compensation arrangements are in the School of Social Sciences Postgraduate Taught Student Handbook

#### **Classification Criteria**

Full details of assessment and compensation arrangements are in the School of Social Sciences Postgraduate Taught Student Handbook

### 15. INDICATORS OF QUALITY

- 2001 QAA Subject Review result: 24
- The ESRC recognises the Departments existing PhD training provision (modes A & B); the existing MA European Politics and Public Policy, MA Political Theory, Governance & Public Policy and Democracy & Elections are currently 'RT' rated by the ESRC.

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