Programme Specs/Benchmarking

**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

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| **1 Awarding Institution** | University of Manchester |
| **2 Teaching Institution** | University of Manchester |
| **3 Programme Accreditation** | None |
| **4 Final Award** | MA/PG Diploma |
| **5 Programme Title** | MA Peace and Conflict Studies (Standard) |
| **6 UCAS/Programme Code** |  |
| **7 Relevant QAA subject benchmark** | None available |
| **8 Department/Faculty** | Politics Department, School of Social Sciences |

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| * **EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME**  The programme aims to:  * Provide an advanced, systematic and critical understanding of key concepts and theories in Peace and Conflict Studies and embed them within International Relations theory. * Provide an advanced critical awareness of the political implications and shortcomings of the international peace architecture and its interventionary tools (e.g. peacekeeping, conflict resolution, peace mediation, peacebuilding, aid). * Enable students to comprehend the tensions and complementarities between bottom-up and top-down approaches to building peace. * Give students a thorough grounding in the different generations of thinking in Peace and Conflict Studies * Provide research practice through independent field research and 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 provide students with the knowledge and skills to equip them for a range of careers in the public and private sectors requiring advanced knowledge of the theoretical and practical dimensions of peace processes and permit students to specialise according to their anticipated career progression. | |
| 10 PROGRAMME OUTCOMES | |
| ***10.1 Knowledge & Understanding*** | |
| **A Knowledge & Understanding of**   1. Major areas of advanced debate and research innovation in Peace and Conflict Studies including:    1. The history of theoretical and conceptual thinking in Peace and Conflict Studies and its embedding in International Relations.    2. Key methodological and conceptual debates at the cutting edge of contemporary research on peace processes, external peace interventions and local peace agency.    3. Through a range of programme-specific optional modules the application of theoretical and methodological knowledge to a range of substantive issue areas of relevance to the students’ individual research interests. 2. The relationship between Peace and Conflict Studies and related fields, such as development studies, political economy, anthropology, history, humanitarianism, political theory, and the contributions such cognate fields and related disciplines might make to the students’ specific research interests   3. The principles of research methodology, research design and fieldwork including knowledge of how to develop and carry out feasible and meaningful research projects, and on the ethical and practical dilemmas of fieldwork.  4. Key issues in research practice in conflict-affected societies. | Teaching/learning methods Combination of interactive seminar learning, independent supervised study, practical exercises and a fieldwork trip. All these apply to all outcomes, but A1 (a, b) are particularly developed through seminar-based learning in programme-specific core modules and A1 (c) is particularly developed through optional programme modules and production of a supervised dissertation. A2 is developed through the selection of optional modules in the programme as well as from other cognate MA programmes A3 and A4 are developed through a combination of interactive seminars, presentation exercises and fieldwork-related preparations within a compulsory dedicated module. A4 is addressed through a compulsory fieldwork trip. The dissertation is a key task and engages all the outcomes above, particularly A1 (b), A2, A3, and A4.  ***Assessment***  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 required for the preparation of the compulsory dissertation, self-assessment, and peer review and comment (especially in the seminar setting). |
| ***10.2 Skills and other attributes*** | |
| **B Intellectual skills - able to**  1.Synthesise and analyse complex issues in the field of Peace and Conflcit Studies specifically in a critical and systematic way  2.Exercise powers of enquiry, logical thinking and reasoned argument  3. Compare and critique a comprehensive range of methodologies  4. Plan, conduct and report on self-directed research within a range of formats, (short oral presentations, essays, a dissertation and a fieldwork project)  5. Reflect critically on the relationship between research context and one’s own role as a researcher | Teaching and learning methods Supervised independent study, interactive seminar learning, essay preparation and execution, oral presentations, and practical research design exercises. All these methods relate to all the outcomes under B.  ***Assessment***  Summative: seminar presentations, presentation exercises, seminar participation, essays and a dissertation.  Formative: self-evaluation, peer review in the seminar setting, supervisors’ commentaries, and formal and informal comment on oral presentations and essays. |
| **C Practical skills - able to**  1. Manage library and bibliographic resources, including online resources, and build up an on-going bibliography for use as a professional research tool  2. Correctly cite, acknowledge and reference primary and secondary sources  3. Interpret and evaluate theoretical arguments and empirical evidence  4. Undertake effectively independent and self-managed learning  5. Clearly communicate research findings in oral and written form to peer audiences and participate effectively as part of such audiences  6. Develop, conduct and critically assess fieldwork. | Teaching and learning methods Skills C1-5 are developed through Interactive seminars (and especially through presentation exercises), independent supervised learning, essay planning and writing, dissertation proposal preparation and execution, oral and written formative feedback on seminar performance, essay writing and dissertation preparation, personal academic development plans and a guided fieldwork trip. C1-4 are especially developed through the dissertation preparation process. C6 is developed through fieldwork preparation and the fieldwork trip.  ***Assessment***  Summative: The compulsory dissertation is a key task that allows assessment of all of these skills, especially C1-4. Essays and oral seminar presentations also allow the assessment of these elements as well as C5.  Formative: Feedback from supervisor to student, peer feedback (especially in oral seminar presentations), and feedback on essays are all ways in which all these practical skills are evaluated. |
| **D Transferable skills - able to**   1. Clearly communicate, in writing and orally, complex material in a systematic, comprehensive and context-sensitive way to academic and non-academic audiences 2. Effectively manage and schedule complex research processes 3. Find information and use information technology 4. Develop an independent learning ability 5. Participate constructively in teams and groups 6. Design and carry out independent fieldwork. | Teaching and learning methods Seminars, independent supervised learning, essay-writing, seminar presentations, dissertation research and writing, practical research exercises, computer-based practical exercises, personal academic development plans. All these teaching and learning methods relate to skills D1-5. D6 is developed in the fieldwork preparation and the fieldwork trip in semester 2. Assessment Summative: The dissertation is a key task which allows assessment of skills D1-4. Essays and presentations also allow the assessment of these elements, particularly D1-3.  Formative: Feedback from supervisor to student, peer feedback, feedback on essays, class presentations and class participation are all ways in which all of these transferable skills can be evaluated. |

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

**For more details see Programme Handbook.**

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| **Year** | **Course structure (credits)** | **Outcomes and progression** |
| 1 | ***Compulsory***  Generic research training course units  MA Dissertation (60) (June- September)  Health & Safety (0)  *Plus*  ***PCS pathway core course units***  Peace and Social Agency, Security and Intervention (15) (Sem 1)  Practical Approaches to Studying Conflict-Affected Societies (15) (Sem 2) Options Six specialist course units, at least four of which must come from a programme-specific list. Students, in consultation with the supervisor and/or the MA Director, may choose the other two optional modules from identified optional modules from the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures.\*  **Additional optional courses**  Language training | MA: Minimum 50% in all units with compensation arrangements\* \*  PgDip: Minimum 40% in all units with compensation/resit arrangements\* \*  All outcomes listed under 10 are developed in this year |

***\*See Programme Handbook for details.***

***\*\* See Graduate School Handbook for Taught Masters Programmes for details***

***12 CURRICULUM SKILLS MAP***

***Intellectual Skills Practical Skills Transferable Skills***

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| **Course Unit/Code** | | | **B1** | **B2** | | **B3** | | **B4** | **B5** | | | **C1** | **C2** | **C3** | **C4** | **C5** | **D1** | **D2** | **D3** | **D4** | **D5** | **D6** |
| **Level 1** | C | Programme-specific core course unit I | DA | DA | | DA | | DA |  | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D | DA | D |
|  | C | Programme-specific core course unit II | DA | DA | | DA | | DA |  | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D | DA | D |
|  | O | Programme-specific optional course | DA | DA | | DA | | DA |  | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D | DA | D |
|  | O | Programme-specific optional course | DA | DA | | DA | | DA |  | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D | DA | D |
|  | O | Programme-specific optional course | DA | DA | | DA | | DA |  | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D | DA | D |
|  | O | Programme-specific optional course | DA | DA | | DA | | DA |  | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D | DA | D |
|  | O | Optional course | DA | DA | | DA | | DA |  | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D | DA | D |
|  | O | Optional course | DA | DA | | DA | | DA |  | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D | DA | D |
|  | C | Dissertation | DA | DA | | DA | | DA | DA | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D |
|  | C | Fieldwork trip | DA | DA | | DA | | DA | DA | | | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | DA | D |
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***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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| 1. **CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION**   Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions criteria of the University of Manchester and the Politics Department in the following way:  Upper Second Class Honours (or equivalent). If English is a second language then a minimum level of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 250 (computer based) is required.  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.  Further details are available on the School of Social Sciences website: <http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/politics/postgraduate-taught/> |
| **14 ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS**  ***Assessment Rules and Classifications***  Minimum MA 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).  Candidates for the PG Diploma are required to pass 8 x 15 credits modules according to the PG Diploma examination regulations (including compensation and resit arrangements) only.  Full details of assessment and compensation arrangements are in the Politics MA Handbook Classification Criteria Full details of classification criteria are on the School of Social Sciences Student intranet |
| **15. INDICATORS OF QUALITY**   * 2001 QAA Subject Review result: 24 |

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