



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification MA International Relations

Course Code: MAITR

2023/24

MA International Relations (MAITR)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2023/24 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at February 2023

General Information

Award	MA International Relations
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Diploma International Relations Postgraduate Certificate International Relations
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:

Mode of Study and Planned Duration					
Mode	Tick	Planned duration	Mode	Tick	Planned duration
ONSITE Full-time			ONSITE Part-time		
MA Full-time	x	Sept start: 12 months Jan start: 12 months	MA Part-time	x	Sept start: 24 months Jan start: 24 months
DISTANCE LEARNING Full-time			DISTANCE LEARNING Part-time		
MA full-time	x	Sept start: 12 months Jan start: 12 months	MA part-time	x	Sept start: 24 months Jan start: 24 months

Part Time Study	Part-time delivery is usually at half the intensity of the full-time equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to part-time students.
Location(s) of Delivery	City Campus, Leeds or by Distance Learning delivery
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit

transfer are located here:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/>

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester One will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations

(<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Dr John Willott: j.willott@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Academic Advisor

An Academic Advisor will be allocated on arrival.

Your Course Administrator

You will be informed of your Course Administrator during induction week. The email address for the admin team is: PIRadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the course are to:

- Transform students into sophisticated, independent and critical thinkers in the field of international relations.
- Provide students with an understanding of the concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations.
- Provide students with knowledge of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and challenges to it.

- Support students in their transition to postgraduate study so that all students will become confident in their academic and professional abilities and be able to apply their knowledge and skills within complex situations.
- Provide students with a thorough understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic, or professional, environment.
- Enable students to apply their knowledge of international relations with originality within advanced academic contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Demonstrate a sophistication in their critical thinking that reflects independence of thought and understanding of the political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary drawing and transforming practices.
2	Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations to analyse political ideas, practices and issues in the international system.
3	Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it.
4	Evaluate different interpretations of world political events within complex international situations.
5	Demonstrate a thorough understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic, or professional, environment.
6	Demonstrate knowledge with originality, through the production of a significant piece of high level independent work in the field of international relations.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Teaching methods will focus on small group discussion and debate, supported by mini lectures. These are supplemented where relevant by sessions in IT labs to develop skills using appropriate software. Students are encouraged to set their own tasks, within clearly identified structures, to meet the learning outcomes and assessment criteria. Similarly, reading lists are less prescriptive and encourage students to locate their own resources. Students will benefit from having access to outside speakers through the Politics & International Relations seminar series which will broaden their learning experience. The VLE is used to provide materials but also a forum for discussion and the sharing of resources and thoughts.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

September Starters Full-Time

For Distance Learning there is a constrained choice of electives. Only those electives with * are available to DL students

Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Theorising International Relations (20 credits)	Y	Theorising Human Rights (20 credits)	Y
Theorising Development (20 credits)	Y	Research Methods (20 credits)	Y
Gendering the International (20 credits)	Y	Developing and Managing Projects* (20 credits)	N
		Security, Conflict and Development (20 credits)	N
		War, Crime and Violence (20 credits)	N
		Political Economy of Environmental Crisis* (20 credits)	N
		Theorising Peace and Conflict (20 credits)	N
		The Politics of Public Policy (20 credits)	N
Dissertation (40 credits)	Y	Dissertation (Cont.)	Y

January Starters Full-Time

For Distance Learning there is a constrained choice of electives. Only those electives with * are available to DL students

Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
		Theorising Human Rights (20 credits)	Y
		Research Methods (20 credits)	Y
		Developing and Managing Projects* (20 credits)	N
		Security, Conflict and Development (20 credits)	N
		War, Crime and Violence (20 credits)	N

		Political Economy of Environmental Crisis* (20 credits)	N
		Theorising Peace and Conflict (20 credits)	N
		The Politics of Public Policy (20 credits)	N
		Dissertation (40 credits)	Y
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)		
Theorising International Relations (20 credits)	Y		
Theorising Development (20 credits)	Y		
Gendering the International (20 credits)	Y		
Dissertation (Cont.)	Y		

September Starters Part-Time

*For Distance Learning there is a constrained choice of electives. Only those electives with * are available to DL students*

Semester 1 Year 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2 Year 1	Core (Y/N)
Theorising International Relations (20 credits)	Y	Theorising Human Rights (20 credits)	Y
Gendering the International (20 credits)	Y	Research Methods (20 credits)	Y
Semester 1 Year 2	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2 Year 2	Core (Y/N)
Theorising Development (20 credits)	Y	Developing and Managing Projects* (20 credits)	N
		Security, Conflict and Development (20 credits)	N
		War, Crime and Violence (20 credits)	N
		Political Economy of Environmental Crisis* (20 credits)	N
		Theorising Peace and Conflict (20 credits)	N
		The Politics of Public Policy (20 credits)	N
Dissertation (40 credits)	Y	Dissertation (Cont.)	Y

January Starters Part-Time

For Distance Learning there is a constrained choice of electives. Only those electives with * are available to DL students

	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2 Year 1	Core (Y/N)
		Theorising Human Rights (20 credits)	Y
		Research Methods (20 credits)	Y
Semester 1 Year 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2 Year 2	Core (Y/N)
Theorising International Relations (20 credits)	Y	Developing and Managing Projects* (20 credits)	N
Gendering the International (20 credits)	Y	Security, Conflict and Development (20 credits)	N
		War, Crime and Violence (20 credits)	N
		Political Economy of Environmental Crisis* (20 credits)	N
		Theorising Peace and Conflict (20 credits)	N
		The Politics of Public Policy (20 credits)	N
		Dissertation (40 credits)	Y
Semester 1 Year 2	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Theorising Development (20 credits)	Y		
Dissertation (Cont.)	Y		

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

On this course students will be assessed by a broadly even mix of coursework and timed exercises, with some practical assessments.

Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	170 hours
Independent Study	1630 hours
Placement	0 hours

Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and opportunities

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.