



Kingston University London

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MSc

quality **innovation** diversity **opportunity** reputation

About the course

COURSE OVERVIEW

This MSc* will enable you to gain an understanding of the forces of global politics and develop the skills to actively engage in the academic and professional discussions that are shaping the contemporary international agenda. It strikes a careful balance between theoretical and practical elements of international relations and also offers a range of modules on international conflict and human rights.

**This course is new and is subject to validation.*

WHAT YOU STUDY

You will explore the historical development of international relations and the key ideas that have shaped our understanding of the modern international system. You will also receive a clear overview of the actors and institutions that operate in the contemporary international environment, such as the United Nations, the United States and the European Union. In addition, you will have the opportunity to take an in-depth look at issues of human rights and international conflict.

CAREERS

The knowledge and skills acquired on this course are valuable in a range of career settings, such as:

- the diplomatic service;
- non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
- journalism;
- teaching;
- the armed forces; and
- public and private sector management.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- The International Relations MSc (subject to validation) allows you to gain an understanding of the forces of global politics.
- You will also have the opportunity to tailor the course to your own interests by choosing from a number of option modules on international conflict and human rights.
- The course draws extensively on the University's highly acclaimed academics and experts on human rights and international conflict.
- You will gain a solid grounding in the theoretical and methodological elements of human rights, which is of particular use if you wish to pursue doctoral studies in this or associated subjects.
- You can study this course on a part-time basis, enabling you to fit in your studies with other commitments.

Course content

MODULES

The course comprises three core modules and five option modules. You will also write a dissertation, which will count for one-third of the total course credits.

Please note that this list of modules is indicative and not intended as definitive.

Core modules

Theories of International Relations

What is 'International Relations'? This module examines the historical development of the discipline and explores the contending theories that have been put forward to explain the way in which elements and actors within the international system interact with one another. In addition to examining the traditional theories of International Relations, you will also be introduced to the variety of alternative approaches that have emerged in recent decades.

Globalisation and the International Economy

This module examines the phenomenon of globalisation and assesses the impact it has on economic interactions between states and non-state actors in the contemporary international system. Issues examined include the functions of international financial organisations, the role of transnational corporations and the spread of corruption and international crime.

Research Methods

This module will help you to acquire a range of research skills and then to plan your own research project.

Dissertation

In your dissertation you will apply the skills learnt in the research methods module in a piece of original research, studying a subject (either applied or theoretical) in considerable depth. You may then use this research to pursue your career objectives.

Option modules

Achieving Human Rights in the Contemporary World

This is a practice-based module that explores the operational challenges of achieving human rights in the contemporary world. Working with academics and practitioners, you will work through a set of individual case studies in which the defence or advocacy of human rights has come to court or been prevalent in media and campaigning.

Understanding Human Rights in the Contemporary World

This module will enable you to understand some of the major issues and debates about human rights. The first part of the module engages in the history and evolution of human rights discourse. In the second part of the module, you will look at some of the key institutions, mechanisms and actors that promote and protect human rights in the contemporary world.

Conflict Theory and Analysis

How can we explain conflict? This module provides a comprehensive introduction to the competing theories that have been put forward to explain conflict, both at a societal and the international level. Drawing on politics, international relations, sociology, economics and anthropology, this module explores the complexities of how conflict emerges.

Managing and Resolving International Conflict

This module examines the wide range of tools and mechanisms that can be utilised to prevent conflict and bring about peace in war-torn societies. Topics covered in the module include early warning, peacekeeping, humanitarian intervention, mediation, negotiation, arbitration, reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction.

Case Studies in International Conflict

Drawing on the extensive expertise of the staff in this area, this module provides an opportunity to examine and analyse a range of contemporary international conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, South East Europe, Latin America and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Contemporary Issues in Conflict and Security

This module provides you with a chance to examine a range of issues shaping and affecting peace and conflict in the contemporary international system. In addition to analysing issues such as terrorism, refugees and weapons proliferation, you will also explore the role of religion, gender and ethnicity in conflict.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the formal taught elements of the course, the programme also includes a visiting speaker series. Past speakers have included politicians, diplomats and journalists, as well as officials from international organisations and leading non-governmental organisations.

Students at Kingston University can also take full advantage of the wide range of events that take place in Central London. For instance, the Faculty is an academic member of Chatham House, the leading forum for debate on foreign affairs in Britain. This provides students with an opportunity to hear world leaders and leading experts discuss pressing global issues.



Teaching staff

Dr James Ker-Lindsay is Course Director. His research interests include the politics and international relations of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus; peace and security in South East Europe; and the role of the EU and the UN in the management of international conflict.

Dr Orna Almog is a Senior Lecturer in International Studies. Her specialist subjects include international conflicts in the 20th–21st century; Israeli politics and the Arab–Israeli conflict; and war and peace the Middle East.

Dr Paul Auerbach is a Reader in Economics. His research interests include financial liberalisation; the economics of multiple currencies; the measurement of economic growth; and the economics of competition and globalisation.

Professor Brian Brivati is Professor of Contemporary History. His research interests include political biography; British political history since 1867; genocide and mass murder; and the history of human rights in the 20th century.

Dr John Davis is a Reader in Modern European History and Director of Graduate Studies. His specialist subjects include Anglo–German relations; British history; German history; hegemony; commercial liberalisation and the Zollverein.

Dr Paul Dixon is a Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Studies. His specialist subjects include British politics and government; comparative politics in the EU and the USA; interpreting conflict; nationalism; and Northern Ireland.

Professor Ilaria Favretto is Professor of Contemporary European History. Her research interests include the British and the Italian Left after 1945; national identity formation and the creation of a European identity; and protest and dissent in 20th century Europe.

Dr Andy Higginbottom is a Lecturer in Latin American Politics. His specialist subjects focus on human rights and the effect of international corporations on Central and South America.

Dr Marko Attila Hoare is a Senior Research Fellow in European Studies. His specialist subjects include Bosnia, mass murder and genocide.

Dr Atsuko Ichijo is a Research Fellow in European Studies. Her research interests include historical sociology and nationalism and ethnicity.

Dr Edward Mogire is a Research Fellow in International Studies. His research interests include Sub-Saharan Africa, refugee issues and small arms proliferation.

Professor François Nectoux is Professor of Contemporary European Studies. His specialist subjects include French studies; media politics; and European nationalism and culture.

Spyros Sofos is Senior Research Fellow in European Studies. His research interests include transnational national communities; the construction of political and cultural identity; South East Europe after the Cold War; and Islam in Europe.

International Relations*

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

One or more of the following:

- a second class degree or above, or equivalent, in an area appropriate to the content of the degree;
- relevant non-certificated learning;
- an appropriate combination of certificated and non-certificated learning;
- consideration is also given to non-standard entrants, and all applicants are normally interviewed by the Course Director or a senior member of the teaching team;
- international students are required to have an IELTS score of 6.5 or an equivalent qualification.

ATTENDANCE / DELIVERY

Timetables are subject to change from year to year. Details of semester one attendance will be available in August.

DURATION

One year full-time or two years part-time.

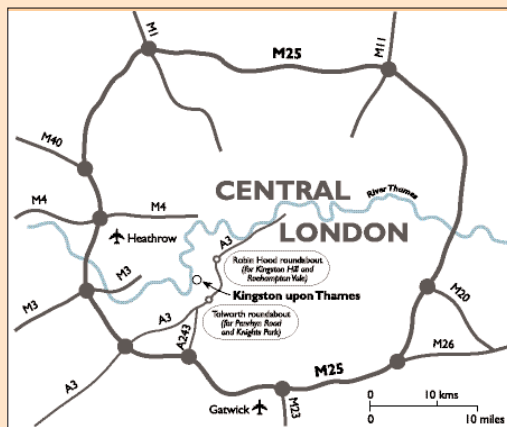
ASSESSMENT

There is a variety of assessment methods for the course, including seminar presentations, essays and a dissertation.

**This course is subject to validation.*

Location

Located beside the Thames, Kingston University is within the London travel-pass zone. Easily accessible from surrounding areas such as Surrey and Middlesex, its local stations (Kingston; Surbiton) are also only 25 minutes from Waterloo.



For further information please contact:

Please contact the Faculty's Admissions Office for an application form or with any further queries.

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Or visit the course webpage: www.kingston.ac.uk/pgintrelations