

**UNIVERSITY OF KENT**

**MA/MPhil/PhD in International Relations**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Awarding Institution/Body</li> <li>2. Teaching Institution</li> <li>3. Teaching Site</li> <li>4. Programme accredited by:</li> <li>5. Final Award</li> <li>6. Programme</li> <li>7. UCAS code (or other code)</li> <li>8. Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group/s</li> <li>9. Date of production/revision</li> <li>10. Applicable cohort/s</li> </ol>	<p>University of Kent                  University of Kent                  Canterbury campus and Brussels                  School of International Studies (BSIS)                  N/a                  MA/MPhil/PhD                  International Relations                  N/a                  N/a                  February 2005</p>
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<b>11. Educational Aims of the Programme</b> <b>The programme aims to:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. equip students to design, research and write an MA, MPhil or PhD of the standard expected by the University of Kent. This includes the student's ability to demonstrate:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. adequate industry and application in the execution of an independent research project;</li> <li>b. how their special theme is related to a wider field of knowledge;</li> <li>c. appropriate ability in the organisation and presentation of the material in a thesis;</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. In addition to the above, students attaining an MA by research and thesis will be able to demonstrate the ability to:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. conduct an independent study;</li> <li>b. produce an MA thesis, which provides an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge as well as evidence that the field has been thoroughly surveyed.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. In addition to the above, students attaining an MPhil will be able to demonstrate their ability to:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. carry out some original work and/or</li> <li>b. provide an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge and shall provide evidence that the field has been thoroughly surveyed.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. In addition to the above, students attaining a PhD will be able to demonstrate their ability to:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Produce a thesis that comprises an integrated whole, presents a coherent argument, and forms a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject ;</li> <li>b. produce evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical power.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

<b>12. Programme Outcomes</b>	
<b>Knowledge and Understanding, Skills and Other Attributes</b>	<b>Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated</b>

**Students successfully completing the programmes will:**

1. gain a deep knowledge of aspects of modern international relations;
2. develop competence in identifying and evaluating numerous forms of evidence on public events;
3. acquire greater competence in written and oral communication;

**1. Training:**

Once admitted to the Department's MPhil/PhD programme students are required to participate in a training programme until the completion of their degree. Before upgrading from MPhil to PhD this includes an introduction event led by the Director of

4. gain an understanding of complex theories of, as well as actors and institutions in international relations, and means of evaluating their performance and outcomes;

Research (DOR), induction meetings with the supervisor and members of the supervisory team and participation in the Graduate Research and Training Seminar (GRTS), which meets regularly throughout the academic year. First and second year research students, prior to their upgrade to the PhD programme, are required to attend the GRTS.

The GRTS helps provide an environment where interests and concerns can be freely exchanged and where engagement in academic argument is encouraged. The GRTS usually meets weekly during term time and provides an opportunity for students to acquire research training through the presentation of papers and critical discussion with other participants. In addition, GRTS includes training sessions e.g. on the use of library resources, research ethics, funding for research students (as offered by the ESRC, AHRB and other funding bodies), and the supervisor-supervisee relationship. At least once a year, GRTS also includes a 'mock viva' in order to familiarise students with the viva situation. Within the GRTS framework, the Department organises an annual Postgraduate Research Conference, usually held in late May, where research students can learn, practice and improve the skills required to give effective academic presentations in a conference setting. Students who have been upgraded from MPhil registration to PhD are encouraged to attend the GRTS on a voluntary basis.

All research students are strongly encouraged to attend the research seminars organised by the Department's Centre for Conflict and Peace (CCP) and are free to attend research seminars organised by all other research centres in the Department and public lectures arranged by the Department. Research students are also encouraged to attend conferences, and the Department has a fund to which they may apply for assistance if they are invited to give a paper.

Upon enrolment in the Department's MPhil/PhD programme, students are required to prepare a project outline including a statement of their research training needs, in conjunction with their supervisor(s) and the Director of Research. The upgrading process provides another structured way of assessing training needs in the presence of the supervisor, the DOR and other academic members of the Department.

5. acquire analytical skills appropriate to a wide range of professional activities as well as a career in university.

The Templeman Library offers training packages in bibliographical skills and using web-based resources. More specialized training in IT, languages, and in methodology are provided by the University of Kent through its Computing Service, the English Language Unit, the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) and the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR). The methodology modules offered by SSPSSR cover, among other topics, epistemological issues, research design, quantitative methods, qualitative methods and interviewing.

### 2. Supervision:

Besides the training elements of the programme, students are expected to consult their supervisor regularly. Supervisors provide a wide range of informal advice on strategies for research and exercise the chief influence upon the student's learning.

6. In addition, students completing the PhD programme will have made a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject including evidence of originality.

### 3. Progress monitoring and assessment strategies:

The student and supervisor are required to keep a record of issues discussed at the meetings in a log. In addition, students and supervisors are required to provide a formal progress report twice a year. This gives the DOR an overview of the progress of all research students.

Research students in the Department are initially registered for the MPhil degree. In order to be upgraded from MPhil registration to PhD, they must prepare a specific upgrading document comprising a brief outline of their thesis plan, a bibliography of published and unpublished work relevant to their topic, a statement concerning the originality of their thesis and an analysis of anticipated problems. The document is prepared in consultation with the student's supervisor and presented to a special upgrading seminar, which is attended by the DOR, the supervisor and at least one other members of staff. The present members of staff decide, on the basis of the document and the student's answers to questions, whether the student will be upgraded (including possible conditions). The decision is communicated to the student in writing and explained by the supervisor and, if required, the DOR.

Upgrading will not usually take place later than the fourth term of registration, and in any case, not later than the end of the second year of registration and pro-rata for part-time students.

### 13. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

Master of Arts	Full time:	One year
	Part time	Two years
Master of Philosophy	Full time	Two years
	Part time	Three years
Doctor of Philosophy	Full time	Three years
	Part time	Five years

### 14. Support for Students and Their Learning

- For detailed information about supervision see above (12.)
- **Induction programme**
  - Library tours at the beginning of the academic year
  - Computing 'Getting Started' induction sessions.
  - Individual support from Library Enquiries Desks and Computing Help Desks
  - Generic library skills training sessions taught by library staff
  - Subject-specific library skills training sessions taught by subject librarian
  - Training sessions on the use of online-resources and data bases
  - All new students obtain the Essential Information Services Guide
  - All new students obtain Library Special Guide on learning resources in Politics, International Relations and European Studies
  - The subject librarian and the Departments' Director of Learning Resources can be consulted on an individual basis by telephone, email or in person
  - All new students obtain the Computing Resource Book students (with a Beginner' s supplement if required).
- **Learning resources**
  - long- and short term lending, access to online resources, interlibrary loans, video library
  - online book renewals and reservations
  - more than 1,300 study spaces/seats available in Library
  - ca. 80 opening hours during term time
  - there are more than 25,000 books and 10,300 bound periodicals catalogued under Politics and International Relations and related class marks (not including Philosophy, Civilisation and Media Studies material)plus ca. 11,700 items in the European Documentation Centre.
  - students have access to over 200 online full-text journals
  - the Department subscribes to more than 170 journals
  - Online library resources are all available from off-campus via Athens and a proxy service
  - 550 public PCs are available for use by all students, 25%, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

- email addresses and designated file-store space for all students
  - Windows 2000 and standard software (MS Office, Internet Explorer, SPSS, and others)
  - laser printing facilities available in all larger terminal rooms
  - internet, email and online resources can be accessed from most study bedrooms on campus
  - student representation on the Library Users' Panel and the Computer Users' Panel
- **Director of Research and supervisor**
  - **Central support services**, including a Unit for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, a medical centre, a Students' Union (including its Advice and Information Service), a Careers Advisory Service, Counselling Service and Disability Support Unit.

**15. Entry Profile – Minimum Requirements (which differ from our standard offer levels)**

**Entry Route**

For fuller information, please refer to the University prospectus.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Minimum requirements:</b></li> </ul>     | <p>Admission to the programme will require evidence of a good honours degree in Politics or a related subject or equivalent, the appropriate English language qualification and an acceptable research proposal.</p> <p>Applications for admission to postgraduate research will be considered by the Department's Director of Research and the potential supervisor(s). The Director of Research will give careful consideration to the suitability and qualifications of applicants and will be satisfied that there are available appropriate expertise for supervision and adequate resources for the proper conduct of the research.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>International applicants:</b></li> </ul> | <p>Where the applicant's first language is not English, evidence will be required of proficiency in written and spoken English in line with the IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge Certificate in Proficiency in English or Cambridge Advanced Certificate in English standards required by the University at the time of admission and published in its prospectus. Where further English language training is required the Director of Research will ensure that appropriate arrangements are made.</p>  |

**What does this programme have to offer?**

- An opportunity to develop advanced research skills in a cosmopolitan research environment with good learning resources,
- Dedicated, research-active staff with a strong research profile in political theory, international relations, international conflict analysis, comparative politics, the study of federalism and the study of Eastern Europe

**Personal Profile**

- A commitment to develop the skills required to complete a research degree

**16. Methods for evaluating and enhancing the quality and standards of teaching and learning  
Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards**

- Biannual progress reports
- Periodic programme reviews
- Staff development programme
- Annual staff appraisal
- Mentoring of new and part-time lecturers
- QAA Institutional Audit
- Annual Away Days

**Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards**

- Staff-Student Liaison Committee
- Departmental Research Committee (delegates authority to Director of Research)
- Faculty Research Committee

**Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience**

- Staff/Student Liaison Committee
- Graduate Research and Training Seminar (GRTS)
- Discussions with supervisors
- Student representation on Department committees
- Student representation on Faculty committees
- Student representation on University committees
- Library suggestions page (email) on Departmental website

**Staff development priorities include:**

- Research-informed teaching
- Links with other European institutions
- Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education requirement for all probationary lecturers
- Part-time lecturers required to enrol on the Associated Teacher Accreditation Programme
- Staff appraisal scheme
- Staff development courses
- Mentors for new members of staff
- Attendance at subject-based and multi-disciplinary conferences
- Minimum expected qualifications for appointments to lecturing posts
- Minimum expected research record for appointments to lecturing posts
- Study leave
- Annual Away Day meeting
- Membership of relevant professional/academic bodies
- Dissemination of good practice on new learning and teaching methods

**17. Indicators of quality and standards**

- good submission rates and very low referral rates for theses;
- favourable reports by independent thesis examiners;
- success in placing graduates in academic posts in Britain and abroad;

The following reference points were used in creating these specifications:

- ESRC Research Training Guidelines 2001
- University Plan and Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Departmental Plan

Jh/IA/prog spec BA Pol

20/10/03