

The School of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) brings together research and teaching strengths that are recognised both nationally and internationally in the areas of Security, Development and Democracy.

Within these areas we focus on human development; global justice and security; conflict and terrorism; political parties and leadership; and democratisation. Our regional specialisms are in Britain, Europe, North and South America, Africa, South and South East Asia and the Middle East.

The School offers a truly international experience with a postgraduate community of over 200 students – with more than half coming from around 25 different countries around the world.

Research expertise informs our teaching

Our teaching is closely connected to the research interests of our academic staff, and we design our programmes for their relevance and importance to contemporary concerns and questions.

Our staff will help you to grapple with the important issues of the day with passion as well as intelligence, utilising the expertise gained through their own research work and engagement with practitioners.

Postgraduate students from around the world are attracted to our flexible MA programmes. All of our wide range of modules are designed to encourage critical thinking and debate.

Many of our students on graduation go on to high profile careers in politics, the media, the civil service, with NGOs and the private sector as well as achieving further academic honours as PhD students.

To find out more visit our website www.polis.leeds.ac.uk



School of Politics and International Studies



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MAs in International Relations and Security



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MAs in International Relations and Security

MA International Relations

The MA in International Relations introduces students to a wide range of theories, approaches and debates over how to understand global politics in the contemporary world.

The programme introduces students to the central debates and issues within the study of international politics and relations

Students will analyse topics and concerns central to the functioning of the international system and explore a wide range of contemporary and historical approaches, focusing on country-specific, regional and international processes.

The programme unites inter-disciplinary work with a thorough grounding in the core elements of the discipline. Students will gain knowledge of the various aspects of international relations in addition to generic social science research skills, methodologies and approaches.

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop expertise in a particular field of enquiry, working with academic staff who are experts in their field. Students will gain an understanding of the often complex and contradictory forces that shape the global agenda.



MA Security, Terrorism and Insurgency

This new MA draws upon the strength of the School in international security, sub-state conflicts and terrorism and insurgency to provide a comprehensive study of the phenomenon of terrorism and to challenge popular conceptions and opinion. The concept of terrorism itself is contentious and students will develop the conceptual tools to distinguish between radically different approaches.

The programme introduces students to the history of terrorism, from state sponsored terror in the Cold War period and urban terrorists in Western Europe - including Northern Ireland - in the 1970s to the emergence of radical Islam and Al Qaeda in the 1990s. It explores the hard dilemmas of preserving democratic liberties while developing effective counter-terrorism strategies and assesses the necessity for and the effectiveness of anti-terrorism legislation in Britain, the United States and other countries.

The programme considers the wider political context and causes of radicalisation and terrorist violence, including analysis of the situations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, as well as an in-depth study of the geopolitics of the Middle East.

As new American, European and Asian approaches to the challenge of terrorism develop, practitioners can benefit from increasing their understanding of one of the most important issues affecting government and law enforcement.



MA Conflict, Development and Security

Conflict, Development and Security addresses the convergence of development and security issues, and its implications for analysing the reconstruction of war-affected societies.

The programme bridges the themes of conflict, aid policy and liberal styles of governance. Students will analyse the ways in which security, development and humanitarian agents adapt to instability.

Students will also analyse the significance of globalisation for the emergence of internal conflict, and for the development of trans-border economics and the political dynamics they may support.

The programme gives students the opportunity to study the regionally differentiated responses to conflict in, for example, Africa and the Balkans, and to discuss issues relating to humanitarian conditionality, containment and the role of international organisations and NGOs. In analysing the relationship between aid and politics in 'new' wars, this inter-disciplinary



programme draws upon the School's rich diversity of approach and experience.

Programme structure

Our MA programmes are 12 month full-time degrees which can also be taken part-time over 24 months. Our MA programmes begin in late September.

Our MAs offer flexible, cross-disciplinary programmes that combine core modules (below) with a wide range of related optional modules.

MA International Relations

- Theoretical Approaches in International Relations (30 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

MA Security, Terrorism and Insurgency

- Terrorism and Insurgency (30 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

MA Conflict, Development and Security

- Conflict, Complex Emergencies and Global Governance (30 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)



To complete a total of 180 credits, students choose 90 credits worth of modules from the options listed below:

- Conflict, Complex Emergencies and Global Governance (30 credits)
- Contemporary International Security (15 credits)
- Contemporary Issues in Nuclear Non-Proliferation and WMD (15 credits)
- European Defence and Security Analysis (30 credits)
- International Law and Ethics in the War on Terror (30 credits)
- International Politics and the Environment (15 credits)
- Policing Post-Conflict Cities (15 credits)
- Politics of Intelligence (15 credits)
- Terrorism and Insurgency (30 credits)
- The Situation Room (15 credits)
- Theoretical Approaches in International Relations (30 credits)
- World Politics and the Environment (15 credits)

Students taking MA Conflict, Development and Security may also choose modules from the following options:

- Africa in the Contemporary World (30 credits)
- Democracy and Development (30 credits)
- Democratisation and Multi-Party Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Environmental Politics and Policy (30 credits)
- EU and the Developing World (30 credits)
- Famine and Food Security (30 credits)
- Gender, Globalisation and Development (30 credits)
- International Political Economy (30 credits)
- Other Wars: Conflict in a Gendered Perspective (30 credits)
- Political Economy of Resources and Development (30 credits)
- Politics of the European Union (30 credits)
- Research Methods (30 credits)
- Rural Development: Theoretical and Policy Issues (30 credits)

Applicants should note that the availability of optional modules varies from year to year.