

MSc in INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

2010-11 Programme Guide

Introduction

The MSc in International Politics is a taught programme, which draws on the Department's established expertise in international relations, comparative politics and political theory. The programme is designed to break down barriers – arguably, increasingly artificial – between comparative politics and international relations, the 'domestic' and 'international', and theory and practice in the study of politics.

The Convenors of the MSc International Politics is

- **Dr Cian O'Driscoll** (Room 1313; Tel: 330 2002; Email: cian.odriscoll@glasgow.ac.uk)

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the MSc in International Politics students are expected to:

- have a firm command of both positivist and normative theories for understanding international politics;
- understand the complexity of key issues in international politics;
- have a specialist knowledge of key issues and actors in contemporary international politics;
- appreciate the dynamic interaction between international politics and domestic politics;
- have mastered a wide variety of different research methods and approaches;
- be able to advance reasoned and factually supported arguments both orally and in writing; and
- produce a dissertation that could form the basis for a PhD thesis and/or be published.

The MSc in International Politics offers training designed to impart transferable skills including:

- analytical (both with respect to data and narrative)
 - presentational (both oral and written)
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Programme Structure

The MSc programme* consists of three (3) principal components:

- a) Three compulsory courses – 20 credits each
- b) Three optional courses – 20 credits each
- c) Dissertation – 60 credits

TOTAL = 180 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer
[a] Challenges in International Politics	[a] International Theory	[c] Dissertation
[a] Qualitative Methods <u>or</u> Social Science Statistics	[b] 2 options	
[b] 1 option		

* The Diploma in International Politics consists of the course-work component only.

A list of Politics options with brief descriptions is available on the Department's website (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/politics/postgraduatestudymscprogrammes/courseindex/>). You should think *carefully* about which options you wish to take. If you have any questions about a particular option please consult the course tutor during his/her office hours or ask the programme convenors. *Please note these are subject to change and not all courses will run each year.*

Students may (with the convenor's approval) take one option (only) from courses offered by:

- The Centre for Development Studies (Department of Economics).
- The Department of Central and East European Studies
- The Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- The School of Law

Please be aware that some of these courses are examined in Semester 2.

Dissertation (Summer)

The MSc degree is designed to culminate in a thesis (12,000-15,000 words) that could form the basis for a PhD thesis or publishable work. All dissertation topics should be appropriate to the degree programme. That is, they should fall within the broad parameters set out in the Introduction. Detailed information is provided in the MSc Handbook.

All participants are expected to provide a dissertation topic and supervisor preferences to the Programme Administrator in March. The dissertation must be submitted by **1 September 2011**.

Modes of Assessment

The degree programme makes use of a range of modes of assessment, which are targeted at specific intended learning outcomes. The compulsory, survey courses, for example, are assessed by take-home exam in order to assess both the breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding. The options and, particularly, the dissertation, are more focused and so are assessed by essay in order to establish the depth of knowledge and understanding.