

1. Programme Title(s) and Code(s):

<i>Programme Title</i>	<i>UCAS Code</i>	<i>GU Code</i>
MA (Social Sciences) with Honours in Politics with Quantitative Methods		L202A-2308

2. Academic Session:

2017-18

3. SCQF Level (see [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Levels](#)):

10

4. Credits:

480

5. Entrance Requirements:

Refer to the current undergraduate prospectus for entrants to the MA Soc Sci at:
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/politics>

6. ATAS Certificate Requirement (see [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#)):

ATAS Certificate not required

7. Attendance Type:

Full Time

8. Programme Aims:

Glasgow Q-Step was formed in October 2013 following an open call (Nuffield, ESRC, HEFCE) to create 15 centres across the UK to create a step change in quantitative literacy among social scientists. The University of Glasgow was awarded £1.4million and GU have matched that investment. One of the requirements of the funding was to create new 'with' degrees that sit alongside subject areas in the School of Social and Political

¹ This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course handbooks and other programme documentation and online at www.gla.ac.uk

The accuracy of the information in this document is reviewed periodically by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Science (SSPS). The aims of this degree are:

- To enhance students quantitative skills and literacy, to improve their employability
- To encourage students to pursue advanced learning in social quantitative methods
- To produce a new generation of post-graduates and academics fluent in quantitative methods

Politics is concerned with developing knowledge and understanding of government and society.

The interaction of people, ideas and institutions provides the focus to understand how values are allocated and resources distributed at many levels, from the local through to the national, regional and global. Thus analyses of who gets what, when, how, why and where are central, and pertain to related questions of power, justice, order, conflict, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty and decision-making.

The study of Politics involves the description of political phenomena, which we try to explain using general theories and on which we reflect normatively. Normative political theory or political philosophy concerns the normative study of the political values of society and the international order, investigated both historically and analytically.

Explanatory political theory concerns the study of the general mechanisms and forces which steer the behaviour of individuals and institutions as they interact at domestic, regional and global levels to allocate values and resources. Political science or political analysis uses these theoretical perspectives to inform and assess the explanation of historical events, political behaviour, the workings of political institutions and actors, political processes and the policy outputs of governance and regulatory structures.

Our four-year Honours degree programme is carefully designed to provide a coherent core of compulsory material, seen as essential to the study of politics, along with a range of opportunities for specialist study. This is supported by a clear research culture, which informs Honours teaching in particular, as well as supervision and support for students undertaking an Honours Dissertation or an Independent Research Paper. Within this structure, individual courses are coherent and up-to-date, and are designed to promote breadth and depth of enquiry and to develop specialist, conceptual, and analytical skills.

9. Intended Learning Outcomes of Programme:

15. Assessment Methods:

10. Typical Learning and Teaching Approaches:

Core Elements:

- Dissertation involves supervision. There is a methodology element to the Dissertation intended to inculcate the skills required to undertake a substantial piece of independent research.
- Methods: Quantitative Methods 3.1 and 3.2 skills for independent research

Options (Courses). Various methods are employed:

- Note: all learning and teaching approaches involve knowledge transfer. Every module has an extensive reading list, with weekly readings indicated. Students must make judgements about what is appropriate to be read. The capacity to use the library and on-line resources is central. Most of the 200 hours associated with each 20-credit course involve reading.
- All courses involve at least one hour per week (with the other a lecture hour) of seminar discussion per week or lab-based learning and many are wholly seminar-based.

Beyond the core skills of reading and seminar participation teaching methods vary between courses. The following are employed:

- Lectures – capacity to follow an argument; comprehension skills.
- Seminar discussion based on close reading of a text – oral, comprehension and interpersonal skills.
- Group (that is, collaborative) work – interpersonal skills; ability to frame an argument in writing.
- Small group work within the larger course group – interpersonal skills.
- Reflection journals – capacity to reflect on reading; comprehension skills.

- Role-playing (simulation) exercises – ability to negotiate; empathetic identification.
- Computing lab work – quantitative skills.
- Individual student presentations – ability to present an argument orally, with or without support aids, before a group of peers.
- Web-based research – capacity to use the net in a discriminating and creative way.

11. Typical Assessment Methods: *** See Section 4.5 of the [Guidance Notes](#). This field should provide an overview of the typical assessment methods used in the programme, bearing in mind that assessment takes place at course level.*

Core Elements:

- Quantitative Methods 3.1 and 3.2. Students are required to take these School courses in their Junior Year. These courses provide students with knowledge, intellectual and transferable skills.
- Dissertation or Independent Research Paper: these are major pieces of independent work intended to provide students with skills of independent research. The dissertation, which is double the length and number of credits, enable students to work more in-depth in a topic and gain greater methodological skills.

Optional Elements – the Courses.

The Subject has sought to widen the range of assessment methods so that students develop a wider range of skills and any unfairness that might arise if we concentrated on a more limited range of assessment methods will be eliminated in the mix of methods. The methods employed include the following:

- Unseen exams – 2 and 3 hours – capacity to frame a written argument under specific constraints.
- Course essays and projects of varying lengths (range: 1,500 words to 4,500 words) – capacity to frame a written argument and undertake relatively independent research as part of a particular course (as distinct from the Dissertation).
- 30-hour take-home papers – capacity to frame a written argument under specific time constraints.
- Group work – capacity to frame a written argument; development of skills of negotiation and team-work.
- Oral presentations and performance – capacity to develop an argument orally.

12. Programme Structure and Features:

PRE-HONOURS YEARS	
YEAR 1	Students must take (and pass with a grade D3 or better) at least <u>two</u> of the following: Politics 1A, Politics 1B, Social and Public Policy 1A, Central and East European Studies 1B. 40 CREDITS + OTHER LEVEL 1 COURSES TO A TOTAL OF 80 CREDITS
YEAR 2	Students must take both politics 2A and 2B 40 CREDITS + OTHER LEVEL 2 COURSES 40 CREDITS + Quantitative Methods 1 and Quantitative Methods 2* 40 CREDITS * A grade D3 pass or above in Psychology 2; Geography 2; Statistics 1 will be permitted instead of completion of Quantitative Methods 1 and 2

In order to obtain entry to Politics Honours at the end of the second year of full-time study, students must:

- Achieve 240 credits at levels 1 and 2 with a grade point average of at least 9; at least 140 of these credits must be derived from the list of recognised courses for the degree; and
- Achieve a grade D3 or better in 200 credits; and
- Achieve a minimum of 40 credits at level 2 at a grade point average of 12 in Politics 2A & 2B at the first attempt; and
- Meet any further requirements set out in the degree's supplementary regulations; and
- Meet any additional requirements set by the School or Schools in which the candidate is applying for entry to honours.

JUNIOR HONOURS (YEAR 3)	
FOUR OPTIONS (optional modules)	Each course is worth 20 credits, creating a total of 80 credits. A student should choose to take two courses in semester 1 and two in semester 2. The courses will be examined at the end of the Junior Honours Year.
METHODS COURSES	Quantitative Methods 3.1 (semester 1) and 3.2 (semester 2) are compulsory. They are both worth 20 credits each.
SENIOR HONOURS (YEAR 4)	
DISSERTATION OR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PAPER (IRP)	Students must take one of these two modules of independent research. The dissertation is worth 40 credits and the IRP 20 credits.
METHODS COURSE	Students can choose one of a selection of advanced quantitative courses. The list is TBC (first students will take courses in 2017/18) Each option is worth 20 credits.
THREE or FOUR OPTIONS (optional modules)	Each option is worth 20 credits creating a total of 60/80 credits. Ideally students will balance the credits equally across the two semesters. The courses will be examined at the end of the Senior Honours year.

Note: It is possible to take up to 25% (60 credits) of courses in other subjects throughout the Junior and Senior Honours years, with the approval of the respective Heads of Subject. However, the credit weighting of the outside Options must fit with the degree programme.

Single Honours students may spend their Junior Year abroad providing they can take two quantitative methods courses in their host institution.

Assessment for all students is governed by the University's Code of Assessment:

<http://senate.gla.ac.uk/academic/assessment/index.html>

Early Exit:

Early exit point 1 is available at the end of year 1 to the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (Social Sciences/Arts) – SCQF Level 7 – subject to completion of courses totalling at least 120 credits, and where the grade point average is at least 8.5. The Certificate of Higher Education shall be awarded with Merit where the grade point average over the courses being counted for the award of the certificate is at least 12, and with Distinction where the grade point average over the courses being counted for the award of the certificate is at least 14.

Early exit point 3 is available at the end of year 3 to the award of an MA (Social Sciences) General Degree – SCQF Level 9 by sitting Level 3 Special Examinations on the work of Junior Honours.

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/socialsciences/info/students/socialsciences/graduating3yeardegree/>

There is no facility for graduating with a three year with quantitative methods degree.

Regulations

This programme will be governed by the relevant regulations published in the University Calendar. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

- (a) Award of the degree
- (b) Progress
- (c) Early exit awards
- (d) Entry to Honours (For undergraduate programmes, where appropriate)

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/>

13. Programme Accredited By:

14. Location(s):

Glasgow

15. College:

College of Social Sciences

16. Lead School/Institute:

Social and Political Sciences [REG40500000]

17. Is this programme collaborative with another institution:

No

18. Awarding Institution(s):

University of Glasgow

19. Teaching Institution(s):

University of Glasgow

20. Language of Instruction:

English

21. Language of Assessment:

English

22. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (see [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-consultation-politics.pdf)) and Other External or Internal Reference Points:

The Politics QAA benchmark is available in full at:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-consultation-politics.pdf>

No benchmark exists for Politics with Quantitative Methods.

The QAA Statement is deliberately broad (and vague), but as a Subject we can confidently say that not only is our programme consistent with the QAA Statement but would be consistent with a more concrete statement. That more concrete statement would say that the study of Politics covers: **Area Studies** (including British and Scottish Government); **Comparative Politics** (or Analysis); **Normative Political Theory** (or Political Philosophy); **Political Behaviour**; **International Relation**

23. Additional Relevant Information (if applicable):

Support for students is provided by the Postgraduate/Undergraduate Adviser(s) of Studies supported by University resources such as the Student Learning Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/sls/), Counselling & Psychological Services (www.gla.ac.uk/services/counselling/), the Disability Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/studentdisability/) and the Careers Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/careers/).

20. Academic Session:

24. Online Learning:

No

25. Date of approval: