Postgraduate Programmes
2016/17
Introducing our department

We are one of the largest and most highly regarded departments of our kind in the UK. We were named recently as one of the UK’s ‘Big Five’ politics departments, by the Political Studies Association due to our global reputation for research excellence and our dedication to teaching and learning.

You’ll be joining a vibrant and active academic community with a wide range of specialisms. Our faculty not only conduct world-leading and internationally excellent research, but are also connected to the world of global politics. Your course and the modules you study are designed and taught by a range of scholars who teach and research but also consult with national governments and international organisations, and are members of national and international think-tanks, research centres, and commissions. For example, 18 of our staff members engage with 25 think tanks, and commissions. For example, 18 of our staff members engage with 25 think tanks, research organisations, and are members of national governments and international think-tanks, research centres, and commissions. For example, 18 of our staff members engage with 25 think tanks, of which 10 are ranked in the ‘Top 50’ of the 2012 Go To Think Tank survey, demonstrating international influence.

Globally, as a department, we rank 46th among all politics and international studies departments in the world, according to the QS World University Rankings 2015. Nationally, we are placed 5th in the UK by The Guardian University Guide 2016, 7th by The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide, and 6th by the Complete University Guide 2016.

In the UK Research Excellence Framework exercise in 2014 (REF2014), we were ranked number one for ‘research power’ and fourth out of all UK based departments for ‘research environment’ and fourth out of all UK based departments for ‘research power’ and ‘research intensity’. Of the research articles over a six year period from 2008, 80% was assessed as being ‘world class’ or ‘internationally excellent’. All of this is significant for you because it means that our ‘research-led’ post graduate teaching is underpinned by the latest, internationally renowned research in the discipline.

Teaching and learning experience

Our students consistently give us excellent ratings regarding teaching and learning, organisation and management, and resources and services. In the 2014 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) results, we achieved 91% satisfaction rating overall. The PTES analyses a range of feedback from students on teaching quality (such as contact, feedback), course design, student satisfaction, and career development.

Our courses are up-to-date and current, reflecting the ever shifting and highly contested political reality. We offer a broad range of specialist modules in your area of expertise. With dozens of modules to choose from, it is possible to customise your degree according to your own intellectual pursuits, research interests and career objectives. New modules are also added as we continue to grow, and new staff members arrive in the department, bringing their own expertise into the mix.

Our faculty members are recognised experts in their field and our research reputation is accordingly very high across several fields of politics including International Political Economy, International Relations, Security, Development, Democratisation and Political Theory. Our Masters programmes in politics and international studies attract a large and impressive cohort of students every year. Given the high standards we set as a department, it is no surprise that our MA students regularly go on to excel in careers in politics, development, academia, media, and high ranking positions in the private sector. One of the great benefits of our highly internationalised MA cohort is that students have the opportunity to network with future leaders from all over the world. We fully encourage you to take advantage of all of the opportunities that are on offer.

Lots of opportunities beyond the classroom...

Not only will you enhance your knowledge of your specialist subject area whilst with us, you’ll also be able to engage with a range of opportunities beyond the classroom. For example, all students are invited to attend the PAIS Departmental Seminar Series that brings in speakers from other universities, government, the media, and international organisations. This series is the focal point of the department’s research culture and activity. What’s more, we host a ‘Burning Issues’ seminar series especially for our MA cohort. This seminar series provides an introduction and overview to a range of contemporary issues in politics and international studies. There are numerous other weekly events taking place that bring together our staff and students including politics related talks, conferences, society events and the PAIS Film Club. We also have alumni sessions where you’ll get to meet previous graduates of your course and learn more about their career paths. According to The Graduate Market in 2015 (High Flyers) report, Warwick is one of the five most targeted universities by leading graduate employers in the country. Over 300 employers have a presence on campus, with careers fairs, presentations and guest lectures happening on a regular basis.
The MA experience

There’s more to life as an MA student with us than just your modules or essays—in fact, we offer countless opportunities for you to develop your personal research and careers skills, engage with the academic community in the department, and participate in university-wide activities.

Skills training

Starting a postgraduate degree can be a daunting prospect, but you’ll be prepared to tackle upcoming challenges through our compulsory series of lectures in research skills. These train you in the skills you need for your course, and demonstrate how these skills can be utilised in the working world after you graduate. You’ll cover topics including referencing, picking your dissertation topic, and research ethics. You can also sign up for workshops on the Masters Skills Programme run by Student Careers & Skills, which will help you as you develop your communication and leadership abilities.

You’ll also have the opportunity to participate in programme-specific reading groups in which you discuss the topics covered in your modules in greater detail with your peers (and do so in the comfort of a café on campus rather than the classroom). When you come to prepare for your dissertation you’ll have the opportunity to engage with your peers and academics at our MA Dissertation Seminar. At this seminar you can present your dissertation plan and discuss your ideas with academics and other students to help refine and improve your proposal, before writing the dissertation.

‘Burning Issues’ seminar series

An intellectual highlight of the MA programme is our flagship ‘Burning Issues’ seminar series. Delivered by our senior academics, these sessions showcase the strength and diversity of research in the Department. Seminars vary in terms of style and format - and are shaped by events and student interest - but each one locates a burning issue in broader conceptual and/or historical context. Past topics have included: the war in Ukraine; Syria, Iraq and the rise of ‘Islamic State’; events in Libya, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Somalia, and Nigeria; the Ebola crisis; the Arab Spring; and the Occupy movement.

Employability

Our faculty and staff can offer a range of advice on jobs and internships. We have online databases of internship opportunities and also a small number of dedicated internships exclusively available for applications from PAIS students. These bespoke internships are with various partner institutions in the UK and abroad, including the development-centred organisation BasicNeeds and the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC. In addition, you can apply for a research internship within the department, working closely with a member of staff to assist with research and administrative duties.

You’ll be able to connect with previous MA students and academics through the weekly PAIS Film Club. The film club is designed to help you use feature films and documentaries as sources for the study of politics and international studies by drawing on themes featured in our programmes and research pathways.

Events and societies

We host a number of events featuring staff, students and guests such as seminars, lectures, workshops, film screenings, career workshops and postgraduate events. These are held at the University campus, and beyond, including key international events such as the International Spy Museum, the Warwick Emerging Markets Forum, international conferences, and other events such as the Warwick International Development Society Seminar Series, the focal point of research culture and activity in the department. Past presentations have covered topics including ‘Twisting Arms and Sending Messages: Terrorist Tactics in Civil War’ and ‘International Election Observers and the Credibility of Elections’. You can further interact with students and academics through the weekly PAIS Film Club.

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Personal and subject support

If you need help finding research materials at Warwick, we have our own dedicated Academic Support Librarian on hand to assist you. The librarian can take you through the process of accessing key electronic resources including online journals and databases, as well as guidance on referencing and other research techniques.

However, if you’re experiencing any academic or personal difficulties during the course of your MA for which you want advice and guidance, your personal tutor is your first point of contact. They will also provide you with any references you need, so we suggest meeting with them at least once per term so they can get to know you better.

“Throughout the year the department has organised an array of interesting and diverse guest seminars which have ranged from discussions about the security nexus in East Asia to talks by former high ranking officials in the White House. These have really helped to bring the academic material encountered during my degree to life and show how it has been demonstrated in practice.”

Guy Shires
MA International Relations

The MA experience

There are also many social activities offered by our department throughout the year, including Christmas dinner and the end-of-year barbecue, where you can meet up and chat with fellow students and staff members in a relaxed atmosphere.

Beyond the department, there is a vibrant campus atmosphere, with many societies and initiatives to get involved with including the Warwick International Development Society, Politics Society, China in Focus, the Warwick Emerging Markets Forum, and One World Week. You can also write articles for Pinpoint Politics, a political commentary website jointly run by postgraduates from PAIS and King’s College London that aims to provide context and a greater understanding of the dynamics behind contemporary political events.
How will I study?

All of our MA programmes can be studied on a full-time basis, over 12 months, or a part-time basis, over a period of 24 months, starting in October each year. Each programme can also be taken as the Postgraduate Diploma (without the dissertation element).

The taught module component of your programme is structured around core modules, which will give you a strong foundation in your chosen discipline. You’ll have the freedom to select from our extensive range of optional modules. To complete your MA, you’ll undertake a dissertation.

Research training, personal development, and professional development are embedded in your degree programme. Through modules, extra seminars, skills workshops, careers presentations, one-to-one advice sessions, and guest speakers, you will be able to sharpen the skills that you’ll need in your future career. Warwick also provides additional support through the Careers and Skills Office to help you build your employment prospects well ahead of graduation.

Course structure

Please note: for information on the structure for a Double Degree then please see pages 10-13, as our Double Degrees have slight variations to below.

Whichever MA programme you choose, you’ll be required to take 120 CATS (credits) in taught modules. Our modules are either 20 CATS or 40 CATS (in other words, they are either taught across one term or both terms). If you pass the taught element of your course, you’ll then be able to undertake a dissertation (worth 60 CATS).

Each of our courses has at least one core module, these are normally worth 40 CATS. Your programme’s core module will deliver specialist material that is specific to your chosen course.

Your remaining 80 CATS will be formed by your choice of optional modules from the wide range available across the department. If you take the Research in Politics and International Studies (RPAIS) programme, then you will have more than one core module, making up 80 CATS in total. On this programme, you have 40 CATS to select as optional modules choices.

We offer a wide range of modules across the broad areas of expertise offered in our department. Have a look at the table on the next page for a complete list of current options available.

Mode of study and assessment

If you study full-time, you will take your core and optional taught modules during the autumn and spring term, splitting these evenly across the two terms. This works out to a commitment of 60 CATS per term, or three two-hour seminar sessions per week per term plus independent research. You’ll then undertake your dissertation during the summer term and summer vacation period.

If you choose to study part-time, you will study 80 CATS of taught modules in your first year; splitting these evenly across the autumn and spring terms. You’ll then study 40 CATS in the autumn and spring terms of your second year. This works out to a commitment of 40 CATS per term, or two two-hour seminar sessions per week plus independent research in year one and 20 CATS per term, or one two-hour seminar session per week per term plus independent research in year two. Your dissertation will be undertaken in the summer term and the summer vacation period of your second year.

Our taught modules are 100% assessed by research essays (coursework) throughout the year.

Your dissertation will be a piece of independent, original research, of 10,000 words (worth 60 CATS). You’ll be assigned an academic advisor to help guide your research. You’ll also have the opportunity to participate in a Dissertation Conference enabling you to present your research to your peers and see what they’re working on too.

Teaching style

Debate and discussion are at the heart of our teaching style, and all modules are taught via one two-hour seminar per week.

Seminars give you the opportunity to interact with leading scholars, as well as with your peers, to explore a set topic each week. Every seminar will be based on the extensive guided reading that you will do each week. But, there is no strict pattern to how sessions are run; you will experience a variety of teaching methods tailored to each specific topic and teacher. This may include mini-lectures followed by discussion, Q&A sessions, organised debates, peer presentations, policy briefs, small group work, and other projects.

In addition to your seminars, you will have access to your module tutors during advice and feedback hours. These designated hours give you the opportunity to sit down with your tutor(s) on a one-to-one basis in order to perhaps seek further guidance on your essays, to ask for feedback on your marks, or to simply follow up on seminar discussions.

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Double Degrees

Unique in the UK in its breadth and range, our Double Degree programmes present you with the opportunity to study with us, as well as with one of our world-class partner institutions. The Double Degree programmes allow you to follow one of our regular MA programmes for one year, as well as a Masters programme at another university for one year, culminating in a joint dissertation of around 15,000 words. You will emerge with an MA from each university.

We have carefully selected Double Degree partners according to their international reputation, standards of teaching and research, and the way in which their emphasis and approach complement the way we study politics and international studies here at Warwick. You will study your subject from two pedagogically and culturally different approaches, strengthening your academic versatility and enhancing your outlook and adaptability as a global citizen.

Many of our partners also offer opportunities for undertaking internships or work placements alongside your studies, so you’ll be able to practically apply the personal skills and academic knowledge you’ll develop on the Double Degree while gaining valuable work experience.

American University, Washington, DC, USA

With the Double MA in Politics and International Service at Warwick and American University, you’ll have the chance to experience what studies are like at two of the world’s best politics and international studies departments on both sides of the Atlantic. During year one with us, you will follow any of our MA programmes, and you’ll customise your degree through selecting the modules you find most interesting. During year two, at the School of International Service at American, you will follow the Master of International Service. Your Double Degree will culminate in a capstone project where you will synthesise the knowledge and methodologies learned from both universities into one piece of unique research. You’ll also have opportunities to take up an internship with a governmental or non-governmental organisation in Washington, DC, as well as the possibility of a one-year work permit beyond your degree programme.

Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo, Canada

The Double MA in Global Governance draws both our and Canada’s leading school of international affairs’ excellence in teaching and research, to deliver a programme which has an unmatched ability to promote vigorous engagement across boundaries of discipline and practice. You’ll choose between two routes, either carrying out the first year of your studies at Warwick before proceeding to Waterloo in your second year, or beginning with the first year at Waterloo and then completing the second year at Warwick. You’ll have the opportunity to spend the equivalent of one academic term as an intern working on global governance issues in the public or private sector, at a research institute, or for a non-governmental organisation, including CIGI (Centre for International Governance Innovation) that is affiliated with the Balsillie School.

Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

Combine a year of study in the heart of England and a year studying by the sea in Catalunya at two of Europe’s leading politics departments through two exciting pathways offered jointly by Warwick and the Political and Social Sciences Department at UPF:

Double MA in Politics and International Studies: During your year at Warwick, you can choose from 9 specialisations by following any of our MA programmes (excluding Research in PAIS). During your year at UPF, you will follow the Master of Research in Political Science.

Double MA in Political & Legal Theory: If you want to really specialise in the theoretical and philosophical aspects of politics, then you have the opportunity to follow a double theory-philosophy programme by taking the MA in Political & Legal Theory at Warwick as well as the Master in Political Philosophy at UPF.

With either Double Degree option you’ll have the choice of either starting at Warwick and completing your degree at Pompeu Fabra, or starting at Pompeu Fabra and finishing at Warwick. The programme is taught in English at both institutions.
University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany

Building on a strong history of Erasmus student exchange at the undergraduate level, the University of Warwick and University of Konstanz have created a Double MA in Politics and International Studies. This collaborative programme combines our theoretical-analytical approach with the analytical-practical approach characteristic of the Politics and Public Administration department at Konstanz.

The Double Degree is based on the 2-year MA in Politics and Public Administration programme at Konstanz and any of our taught MAs (except Research in PAIS). The year spent with us replaces one year of study at Konstanz. All of the core and a wide range of optional courses at Konstanz will be taught in English, so while knowing German is desirable, it is not essential to undertaking this programme of study. During or after your studies in Konstanz you will also have the opportunity to take advantage of the Konstanz Internship Database that has hundreds of opportunities both in Germany and further afield.

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

With one year spent studying at Warwick and the other in the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), the Double MA in Politics and International Studies gives you the chance to live and study in two culturally diverse countries and regions and gain two Masters degrees from globally respected European and Asian universities.

You’ll spend the first year in PAIS on your chosen MA specialism, with the department’s expertise in the political and methodological aspects of the subject providing you with a foundation for RSIS’s global security focus in your second year studies.

Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Are you interested in entering the complex crossroads of politics, international studies, and the media? If so, the Double MA in Journalism, Politics and International Studies is the programme for you. Born from the Alliance between Warwick and Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, this programme joins our department with the School of Media, Film and Journalism (MFAJ) at Monash, in order to bridge the disciplinary difference between both subject areas.

On this programme, you can choose to follow the taught portion of a single MA with us or the taught portion of the Master of Journalism in MFAJ in year one (starting in July if you study at Monash first), and combine your cross-disciplinary training in a final joint dissertation project. You will also have the chance to participate in combined virtual workshops and conferences and to create a piece of journalism in combination with a shorter ‘written up’ research section, if you choose.

While at Monash you will not only study the academic discipline of journalism but also receive practical training. There will also be opportunities for media or politics and international studies based internships during the course of the programme.

The student experience

“I chose to do my masters at the University of Warwick, and not at other esteemed universities, mainly because of the double degree programmes it offers. I have always had an interest in East Asia, which only increased after spending some time studying there. When I saw that I would have the opportunity to study politics and international studies at one of the United Kingdom’s most prestigious universities, as well as having the experience of living and studying in Asia again, I was sold. The Warwick-NTU (RSIS) double degree is perfect in the sense that they enhance each other. The degree at Warwick is very theoretical and therefore provides you with a really good masters degree in politics. The degree at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies is much more practically oriented, with many practitioners who have become academics. Besides this, it gives everyone with an interest in the Asia-Pacific the opportunity to actually spend time in the region and not just read about it. It has shown me that there are certain things like attitudes or historical experiences that you just cannot learn or fully grasp from books and articles. Thus, the combination of the two degrees provides you with much more real-life and in-depth knowledge about politics and international studies from both a European and an Asian perspective.”

Lieke Bos
Double Masters with Nanyang Technological University 2013-15
MA International Development

International Development is a multidisciplinary framework for assessing and analysing political, social and economic development of postcolonial nation-states. Emerging from the discipline of Economics, it soon drew attention of political scientists, lawyers and sociologists who wanted to know how new nations addressed the major problems facing them in the post World War II and Cold War landscape.

The major debates engaged in by Development Studies, as it came to be known, focused on growth v inequality, efficiency v democracy, state v market led development and modernity v tradition. The practice of development was also framed within these debates and was institutionalized through the Bretton Woods System, the various UN institutions, governmental and non-governmental policies and initiatives.

The continuing importance of these debates can be seen today as we discuss how are inequality, political instability and economic development linked? Whether market shocks reshape political as well as economic frameworks? Whether economic growth is a good measure of human development? Is modernity the goal that is worth aspiring to in the context of environmental crisis? Why does poverty persist in a world of plenty? Why does gender justice matter for development? Why does economic growth have emerged in a globalised society? Are countries of the South able to respond and take advantage of these new configurations?

This programme will introduce you to these debates and questions. Theories and Issues in International Development – how is knowledge constructed? What assumptions do we make? What explanations do we propose? What normative judgements do we make? By examining issues, this module considers some of the prominent substantive items on the policy agenda of development institutions and agencies, as well as other civil society actors. Is the traditional organisation of political life and the work of key development agencies still relevant in a context of globalisation? What new configurations of power have emerged in a globalised society? Are countries of the South able to respond and take advantage of these new configurations?

As part of this module, you’ll be involved in an annual symposium on development issues at the end of Term 2. You’ll present your research on a chosen development topic that you’ve followed during the term. To expose you to development practice, the symposium includes a panel of practitioners drawn from alumni and the teaching staff’s contacts. The interactive session starts with a brief address on this module and which will point us to new configurations.

Theories and Issues in International Development

This module explores both theories and issues relating to International Development – how is knowledge constructed? What assumptions do we make? What explanations do we propose? What normative judgements do we make? By examining issues, this module considers some of the prominent substantive items on the policy agenda of development institutions and agencies, as well as other civil society actors. Is the traditional organisation of political life and the work of key development agencies still relevant in a context of globalisation? What new configurations of power have emerged in a globalised society? Are countries of the South able to respond and take advantage of these new configurations?

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These are some of the key questions we will address on this module and which will point us towards the politics of the global food system.

This module explores how these diverse areas are intertwined and exposes the global links between national food and farming economies. Its aim is to provide you with a critical introduction to debates around food and agriculture, and to offer an empirically-rich field in which to explore ideas about poverty, power and politics. It begins by outlining the structural and political constraints that constitute a global food system, before discussing three central concepts – security, justice and sustainability – and some of the issues they are linked with.

Marta Luzes

MA International Development

Core module:

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Marta Luzes

MA International Development

#1

Featured: optional module

The Global Food System

Why are hundreds of millions of people going hungry at the same time as similar numbers are considered overweight? Who really benefits from the vast amounts of money made in producing and selling food around the world? Will there be outbreaks of violence as people seek to secure resources needed to feed themselves into the future? And who can really change the business as usual approach to the way food and agriculture is governed?

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Marta Luzes

MA International Development
MA International Political Economy

What is power? And where does it lie? What is the relationship between politics and economics and how should we understand the relationship between states and markets? How will global capitalism, and the nexus of regulatory institutions within which it is embedded, transform social, political and economic relations in the 21st Century? What is the future of the state, the market and civil society in this changing world?

International Political Economy (IPE) is a field of enquiry concerned with the distribution of power, wealth and agency in a rapidly changing and contested global context. With such a diverse range of interest, IPE encourages a plural and often eclectic approach to study. Throughout the course, you will be introduced to the principal theoretical currents in IPE - like Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism - as well as more critical approaches - such as Marxism, Feminism and Post-Colonialism. You will be equipped to use these theories to engage with a range of important issue areas in IPE, including finance, production, consumerism, and the environment.

Our MA in IPE is a truly global programme and often attracts students from all over the world. You'll benefit from an engaging intellectual environment and are able to choose from a selection of cutting edge options in trade, finance, development, and global governance.

What’s more, our department boasts leading figures in the IPE discipline and we host regular high profile events run through our Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR).

All of our MA programmes are worth 180 CATS (credits) in total. As part of this course, you will be required to take one core module, listed below (40 CATS). You’ll then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS) that appeal to you from our extensive range of optional modules (see table on page 8 for complete list of these). If you pass the taught modules, you will move on to the second phase of the masters programme and complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 CATS).

Core module: Theories and Issues in International Political Economy

International Political Economy (IPE) is a field of enquiry concerned with the (re)production of power and wealth within contemporary world order. Theories and issues in IPE will acquaint you with key theoretical and analytical tools for analysing the burning issues in global politics. What caused the global financial crisis? Why do so many live in poverty while a small percentage of the world’s population commands such vast wealth? How might the situation be changed or improved?

Economic Cultures and Global Flows: Rethinking International Political Economy

The aim of this module is to permit you to explore the role of culture in contemporary economic processes. The central theme is the impact of globalization on understandings of state-market-society relations, with a particular focus on the concept of ‘culture’ as a determining factor in the global political economy. Empirically, the module moves beyond IPE’s traditional concern with mainly Western and advanced (OECD) countries and engages with processes of political, economic and social change on a global level.

The module begins with a critical review of the ways in which ‘culture’ has been understood as an analytical concept in International Political Economy and cognate fields. It then investigates the historical processes that have contributed to specific understandings of culture and the ways in which they have structured economic interactions on both regional and global levels. Thereafter, the module will examine the impact of different global flows - flows of money, goods, people and ideas - on different manifestations of economic culture and vice versa. The module concludes by investigating the implications of taking culture seriously for IPE as a field of inquiry and by examining the extent to which the need for new understandings of ‘culture’ as a political force is indicated.
How will East Asia accommodate the rise of a more economically and militarily assertive China? Is the US declining as a superpower in the region, or will it reassert its hegemony post-9/11 and against China? Does Japan still have designs upon regional economic leadership, and will it come to play a bigger military role in the region? How does a ‘non-state’, like Taiwan, conduct international relations?

Our MA in International Politics and East Asia gives you the opportunity to approach and answer these questions from a disciplinary basis. This is not a traditional area-studies course on East Asia, but rather a disciplinary degree that focuses on the region for its case studies and thus offers unique advantages: strong disciplinary expertise combined with genuine regional expertise.

East Asia’s emergence as the most dynamic region in the global political economy continues despite a series of crises since the early 1990s. If anything, the crises reinvented the study of the international relations and political economy of East Asia. Instead of just focusing on business and economics, the crises highlighted the politics of international economic relations, the impact of globalisation on the region and existing development paradigms, and the need for greater regional cooperation to cope with future economic shocks.

Our IPEA programme is one of the leading postgraduate programmes of its kind. We have among the greatest concentration of disciplinary based East Asia experts in the UK and Europe, and we are home to the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, researching issues of Asia-Pacific and East Asian regionalism.

All of our MA programmes are worth 180 CATS (credits) in total. As part of this course, you will be required to take one core module (40 CATS). You’ll then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS) that appeal to you from our extensive range of optional modules (see table on page 8 for complete list of these). If you pass the taught modules, you will move on to the second phase of the masters programme and complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 CATS).

MA International Politics and East Asia

Core module: International Relations of the Asia-Pacific

What makes the Pacific Asia region tick? Does East Asia face greater challenges from ‘traditional’ or ‘new’ security issues? Can China rise peacefully and what would this mean? This module aims to elucidate how the international relations of Pacific Asia, and the growth of regionalism and regional cooperation, are shaped. In pursuing this goal, the module engages a range of issues including security, development, institutions, the roles of great powers, as well as the importance of the wider global context. We have an outstanding international reputation in this area with world leading researchers. In addition, we attract a number of internationally renowned researchers to give guest lectures and seminars relating to this field. This module is an excellent choice if you’re interested in Asia, international security, regions and international relations.

This module explores a number of cutting edge research topics and is supported by the ongoing research work within the department. By choosing this module, you will be challenged by the dynamism of a region that is among the fastest growing in the world. This module aims to give you the tools to effectively interrogate the challenges facing the region through interactive and engaging seminars, readings, guest lecturers, and group tasks.

East Asian Development Models and the Political Economy of the Asia/Pacific Region

Since World War II, several countries in East and Southeast Asia have achieved the highest sustained growth rates of any in history. In 1994, the World Bank produced a study of the ‘East Asian Economic Miracle’, highlighting ways in which Third World countries could learn from their example. Other commentators have focused upon their achievements as exemplifying the potential for ‘developmental states’ to speed up economic development.

This module focuses on two basic sets of issues: first, the ways in which these states have managed to achieve their dramatic successes; and second, whether these states will have to come closer to more ‘western’ models of capitalist organisation and governance if they are to restore significant growth.

Within the region there has been significant diversity in development models. First, there were Japan and the Newly Industrialising Economies (NIEs). Then, there are two Islamic states with predominant Muslim societies – Malaysia and Indonesia – where religion has had a marked impact upon economic structures. There are also four nominally communist states, but with quite different degrees of economic reform: China, Vietnam, Laos and North Korea. And there are also more recent NIEs in Southeast Asia, such as Thailand and the Philippines, whose development strategies have differed significantly from those of earlier NIEs.
MA International Politics and Europe

How does the EU organise itself as an actor in the world system? To what extent does it bypass the foreign policy and external relations interests of its component member states? Does the EU represent a novel and distinctive presence on the international scene, particularly in comparison with the US?

Our International Politics and Europe (IPEU) programme analyses European politics explicitly in the context of International Relations and International Political Economy. Our Department is an international centre for research on International Relations and European politics, with staff at the cutting edge of research in these areas. The programme is very useful if you’re keen to understand past and present international relations of Europe, and the European Union amidst times of crisis and in a constantly changing world.

The combined study of International Relations and the EU makes this programme distinct from many other European Studies programmes. In addition, the economic crisis in Europe provides a timely opportunity to explore the global presence of the EU and how it is shaped by growing political and economic challenges at home and abroad. In this regard, the MA in IPEU examines the EU, its significance for the world system and the various ways in which it engages with the global political economy. You’ll be given a disciplinary grounding in both International Relations and International Political Economy through the core module ‘Europe and the World’.

All of our MA programmes are worth 180 CATS (credits) in total. As part of this course, you will be required to take one core module, listed below (40 CATS). You’ll then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS) that appeal to you from our extensive range of optional modules (see table on page 8 for complete list of these). If you pass the taught modules, you will move on to the second phase of the masters programme and complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 CATS).

Core module: Europe and the World

Current international events have intensified the focus on the European Union’s foreign and security policies. The standard view presents EU efforts to develop a united and coherent foreign policy identity as relatively unsuccessful. This view judges differences between national European governments to be significant and EU institutions to have failed in encouraging convergence and compromise between these embedded national interests. A contrasting view has emerged, however, suggesting that the EU has gradually developed a distinctive identity in international affairs, predicated upon an increasing degree of unity on core foreign policy values.

This module will explore these debates over the EU’s effectiveness as a foreign policy actor, and assess the nature of recent European policies in a number of strategically important areas of the world. The module will analyse the difficulties that the EU has faced in developing a truly common foreign and security policy and in establishing itself as an effective international actor; examine the EU’s role as a global trading bloc, its response to the financial crisis and its complex relationship to globalisation; and assess how the EU has assisted the countries in the neighbourhood to the east and to the south in the wake of the Arab Spring. You’ll also examine in detail the incipient European Security and Defence Policy and assess its implications for the EU’s foreign policy identity, the role of human rights in European foreign policy, and the EU’s role in relation to the range of challenges presented by developments in the various regions of the world, including Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Citizenship, Migration and Cultural Diversity

Citizenship is a contested concept. Many theorists agree that to be a citizen of a state is to enjoy various rights and to be under various duties, but they disagree about what rights a person must enjoy to be a full citizen of a state, and about what duties a person incurs as a citizen. The module explores these issues mainly (though not exclusively) in the context of debates about the normative significance of cultural diversity and religious pluralism.

You’ll be introduced to some different normative theories of citizenship, including liberal and republican theories, and engages in a critical evaluation of them. Then, you’ll distinguish various normative approaches to cultural and religious diversity, including assimilationism, integrationism, ‘benign neglect’, and multiculturalism, and you’ll be invited to assess the strengths and weaknesses of these contrasting approaches. Third, it examines a number of different policy areas, such as the public funding of faith schools, the legal accommodation of cultural diversity, and citizenship tests, in the light of the different theories of citizenship introduced earlier and the different normative approaches to cultural and religious diversity.

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MA International Relations

Is there any prospect of justice in relations between states? Do states remain the dominant actors in the international system with its current proliferation of transnational corporations, international organisations, and regional blocs? How will democratisation, economic liberalism, resurgent nationalism, and religious revivals affect world order?

Our MA in International Relations is one of the foremost programmes in Britain and Europe for the study of International Relations (IR). It will enable you to tackle the big issues facing global decision-makers: from war to poverty; from security to the complexities of environmental degradation; from inequality to the study of global elites. Traditionally, the discipline of international relations has been concerned with issues of war and peace, focused on explaining and understanding the behaviour of states in their relationships with each other in the international state-system. More recently, however, IR has broadened and deepened as a discipline and is now much more than the study of war, peace, and states.

On this MA programme, you will learn the key theoretical approaches in IR from Realism to Postcolonialism, making theory accessible and understandable and equipping you to evaluate theoretical positions in the light of pressing issues in contemporary political life. IR also incorporates within its theories an understanding of the role of a range of other actors besides states including NGOs, private enterprise, and international bodies. You will use this pluralist theoretical framework to study international cooperation, identity politics, global governance, ethics, and civil society.

Those who work at the highest levels in business, government, or the voluntary sector, increasingly need to tackle these issues, and the Masters in International Relations programme offers you the opportunity to do so.

All of our MA programmes are worth 180 CATS in total. As part of this course, you will be required to take one core module, listed below (40 CATS). In addition to the core module, you then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS). In addition to the core module, you then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS). In addition to the core module, you then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS). In addition to the core module, you then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS). In addition to the core module, you then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS).

Core module:

Theories and Issues in International Relations

The module provides an advanced introduction to the key ideas and approaches that scholars working in the discipline of International Relations (IR) use to understand and make sense of the practices of international politics.

The module aims to familiarise you with the key theoretical approaches in IR from Realism to Postcolonialism, to make theory accessible and understandable, and to evaluate theoretical positions in the light of pressing issues in contemporary political life. A distinctive feature of IR at Warwick is its plurality, openness in competing worldviews, and emphasis on the relationship between theory and practice. We also have particular strengths in critical, interpretive, sociological, pragmatist, and poststructuralist perspectives.

IR scholars also theorise international cooperation, identity politics, global governance, ethics, and civil society. As such, IR also incorporates within its theories an understanding of the role of a range of other actors besides states including NGOs, private enterprise, and international bodies. The range of issues we cover in the module reflects these shifts and includes humanitarian intervention, international terrorism, the global financial crisis, neoliberal governance, and development.

Alice Turnbull
MA International Relations

Studying International Relations has been a very unique experience as a member of PAS. It is not every day that someone can claim to study a module on new rising powers with people from not only diverse disciplinary backgrounds, but also with representatives of those countries. There is a real sense of community that is encouraged and cherished by the department.

Gender and Global Politics

On this module, you’ll critically examine the significance of gender in shaping political dynamics at the local, national and global levels, and the impact of international politics and economics upon gender relations.

Developing the contributions made by various feminist scholars, the course takes as its point of departure the spaces and intersectionalities across which gender relations take place. The second half of the module addresses the gender dimensions of key contemporary global issues including security, war, peace and security, resurgent nationalisms and religious revivals, and global governance. These issues will be framed and explored critically using a range of feminist theories (standpoint, institutional, liberal, postcolonial, post-structuralist, materialist) and throughout the course, you will be encouraged to reflect upon the relationship between feminist and mainstream approaches to politics and IR, as well as your own different ontological, epistemological and methodological perspectives.
MA International Security

What does security mean? Which issues should be considered security issues? What role does security play in contemporary political life? Can security be achieved, and how, in both practical and philosophical terms?

International Security (IS) is a field of study concerned with questions about war and peace, life and death, safety and survival. Traditionally, its terrain has focused on concerns about the stability of the states system, the use of force, nuclear proliferation, military strategy, intelligence and the distribution of resources. Today, however, concerns about climate change, migration, poverty, health, privatisation, organised crime and international terrorism are also on the agenda. Our MA in International Security is one of the most comprehensive international security graduate programmes in the country, taught by staff at the innovative International Security research group.

Take this course and you’ll be able to choose from a broad range of cutting edge modules with a diverse thematic and geographic focus. On this programme, we’ll support students to organise a series of Graduate Conferences on International Security, while the Department also regularly hosts high profile speakers and organises public debates through its International Security research group.

All of our MA programmes are worth 180 CATS (credits) in total. As part of this course, you will be required to take one core module, listed below (40 CATS). You’ll then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS) that appeal to you from our extensive range of optional modules (see table on page 8 for complete list of these). If you pass the taught modules, you will move on to the second phase of the masters programme and complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 CATS).

Core module: 
Concepts and Theories of International Security

What is security? Whose security counts? And how is security enacted? This module will introduce you to key theories of security in international relations, and you’ll explore wide-ranging approaches to the analysis of security. Through this module, you’ll be provided with an advanced introduction to various theories of ‘security’ in international relations.

What’s more, you’ll reflect on the analytical and normative implications of different theories and approaches, and you’ll engage different approaches through relevant case studies. The module contrasts traditional to critical approaches to security, and encourages reflection on the political and ethical implications of the traditional assumption that security means the preservation of state sovereignty and territorial integrity. In introducing you to a range of different ways of conceptualising security in international relations, it points to the importance of recognising that security is highly contested and contestable, and emphasises the Euro- or western-centric tendencies of security studies.

The module introduces security as a concept and the nature of debates around security, before examining traditional and critical approaches to security (eg ‘realism’, ‘strategic studies’, ‘feminism’, ‘post-structuralism’), concluding with an analysis of core ‘images’ of security (eg ‘clash of civilisations’, ‘risk society’).

Borders and migration

This module explores the political and ethical implications of contemporary practices of regulating borders and migration. It fosters appreciation of various conceptual and methodological approaches to the critical analysis of borders and migration, while examining the contested politics of human mobility across a range of global contexts. The module emphasises in particular the ways in which processes of governing cross-border migrations are implicated in the making and governing of political subjects.

You’ll develop a critical appreciation of different conceptual and methodological approaches to the analysis of borders and migration. Then, you’ll apply such approaches with reference to case studies across a range of global contexts and political sites, and reflect on the political and ethical implications of contemporary practices of regulating borders and migration. Specifically, the module will enable you to critically reflect upon regulatory technologies and their contestation in relation to the making and governing of political subjects, and to critically reflect on the relationship between political categories or values and the production of academic knowledge about borders and migration.
MA Politics and International Studies: Big Data & Quantitative Methods

Big data and quantitative methods are transforming political processes and decisions in everyday life. Local, national and international administrations are making ‘open data’ available to wide audiences; giant, world-level web organisations are putting more and more services in synergy; and private companies or governments are developing strongly ideological projects in relation with big data, which may have major consequence on the means by which we are ruled. All these issues involve data in text, image, numeric and video formats in unprecedented scales, which means there is a growing need for trained specialists who will have the capacity to compete and/or collaborate with strictly business or technique-oriented actors on the basis of sound knowledge from political and international studies.

In contrast to degrees such as Data Science or Data Analytics, where the focus ends up being almost exclusively on data practices and computational tools, our MA in Big Data provides you with a knowledge and understanding of the implications of different approaches to issues concerning big data and public policy. Warwick has considerable expertise in quantitative methods, located in our department, along with the department of Sociology, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM) and the Q-Step Centre. Given that a noteworthy part of Sociology, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies

Core modules: Data Analysis and Interpretation

Methods are central skills for analysing politics. Among the multiple methods developed by political scientists, statistics hold a substantial position. Modern politics are about mobilising numerous resources and governing masses of people. Understanding (and practicing) political numbers, whether election results, political behaviours, values and opinions, organisational data or macro-data in international relations and international political economy, increasingly requires statistical tools.

The course follows two objectives: improving your ability to read and discuss academic texts that include statistics, as well as non-academic texts issued by the press, governments or political organisations; managing, processing and interpreting statistical data, either from primary or secondary sources.

We will discuss different methods, progressing from simple to more elaborate ones, assessing their respective advantages, disadvantages and applicability. We will assess how they can contribute to the description and explanation of various political objects at national and international levels. We will emphasise the importance of selecting the appropriate method given one’s theory, data and research goals. This will not be an abstract statistics course, but a comprehensive approach to political numbers.

The course will include example data from diverse fields of political science, in particular surveys on attitudes and opinions. Individual surveys are a major source of quality information about the vote, ideology, protest attitudes, policy opinions and other political attitudes.

Big Data Research: Hype or Revolution?

The second core module for the MA Politics and International Studies: Big Data & Quantitative Methods is run by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies. Questions that this module will tackle include: What are big data? How do big data present a paradigm shift in social science? How might the politics of big data shape research? What are key research questions in the age of big data? How might big data research be addressed using big data? Who are the ‘producers’ and ‘owners’ of big data? How are big data infrastructures transforming key ethical issues, such as confidentiality, anonymity, and privacy? How is the issue of ‘security’ transformed in big data research? Who owns ‘live’ globally distributed data? How do big data carve new kinds of geographies and boundaries of research? How are the politics of big data transforming ‘data territories’? How do big data impact on our individual and collective agency? How can we use big data to shape social and political structures that are driven and produced in data-driven systems? How might big data impact and transform the future of social science? What challenges lie ahead for social science research given the impact of big data?

Politics of International Trade

The module generally seeks to locate an important set of contemporary issues in world politics within debates about globalisation, the nature of the relationship between globalisation and regionalism. Prospective students will be reminded that this module is a module on the politics of international trade. Modules covering a similar area from different disciplinary perspectives are available in Economics and the Law School.

Subject to yearly variation, the first term will usually cover the following: historical and contemporary trade relations; US trade policy; and various forms of regionalism with a focus on the EU, NAFTA, APEC and Mercosur. The second term will usually focus on multilateralism and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) examining structural problems at the WTO and regionalism, including the World Trade Organisation as well as Dispute Settlement; issues in trade politics including trade and security; agricultural trade; the ‘trade and issues’ including the environment; and the ‘new trade agenda’ including trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights. Seminars will consider the importance of trade policies within individual state’s development strategies, and also consider the impact of trade on regional integration.

The aim of this module is to provide an analysis of the politics of international trade, in particular institutions involved, patterns of domestic politics and their impact on relations between states, and the main policy issues in international trade.
MA Political & Legal Theory

Normative issues - questions of right and wrong, of just and unjust, of good and bad - often arise in, and motivate, the study of social, legal and political institutions and policy. How should those institutions be arranged? By what moral criteria should we assess policy options? How should we act as individuals, citizens, politicians, or judges? If you want to study political, legal and moral philosophy to an advanced level and to consider how normative analysis might be applied to address matters of public concern, then this programme is for you. It will enable you to acquire knowledge and understanding of the central normative conceptions, the debates they have generated, and their implications of different approaches for public policy, institutional design and the law.

Our MA in Political and Legal Theory is a fully interdisciplinary course. Unlike other programmes of this kind that offer a range of modules taught within various contributing departments, the core module for Political and Legal Theory will be taught in our department, and in collaboration with the Law School and the Department of Philosophy. This interdisciplinary approach is supported by the close cooperation fostered by the Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs, which is situated in our department and which includes members from Law, Philosophy and Sociology.

This programme also provides an advanced education in normative issues that will prepare you for doctoral study that includes normative inquiry and give them a wide range of experience that will be attractive to employers.

All of our MA programmes are worth 180 CATS (credits) in total. As part of this course, you will be required to take one core module, listed below (40 CATS). You’ll then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS) that appeal to you from our extensive range of optional modules (see table on page 8 for complete list of these). If you pass the taught modules, you will move on to the second phase of the masters programme and complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 CATS). If you have a particular interest to understand the moral aspects of the social, economic, political and legal phenomena that you’re studying, then this module will be of interest to you.

Core module:
Normative Analysis

Taught by a team drawn from three Departments - Politics and International Studies, Law, and Philosophy - this interdisciplinary survey course provides an advanced and wide-ranging introduction to the main theoretical perspectives and substantive topics.

The first term offers a comprehensive survey of key approaches to normative theory. You’ll start by looking at impartial consequentialism (should we aim simply to maximize the good?); deontology (are there rights and duties that constrain the pursuit of the good?); contractualism (is it helpful to think about the social arrangements people would have agreed to?); and contractarianism (what is the relation between morality and the coordinated pursuit of individual self-interest?). Then, you’ll move on to consider methodological issues such as the relationship between normative principles and empirical facts, the action-guiding role of ideal theory, the idea that we assess normative claims by a process of reflective equilibrium, and the philosophical relevance of studying the history of political thought.

The second term looks at a range of more specific conceptual and substantive issues such as the distinction between doing and allowing, the relation between democracy and legitimacy, and the justification of civil disobedience, of punishment, and of criminalization. You’ll also explore some of the key questions that arise in the study of social and political justice: the relation between justice and equality, between social justice and global justice, and between gender and justice.

If you have a particular interest to understand the moral aspects of the social, economic, political and legal phenomena that you’re studying, then this module will be of interest to you.

Democratic Design

Democracy is a crucial ideal – ‘rule by the people’ – and set of political practices, such as voting in free and fair elections. It is also a deeply contested ideal and a practice. It’s not unusual to find proponents of very different policy or ideological positions each using the historic of democracy in favour of their position and against their opponents.

The ambiguities at the heart of democracy - what is it, how should it be practiced? - are viewed by some as a weakness; maybe it is an idea empty of real meaning? But this very ambiguity may reflect something positive about democracy: perhaps democracy is flexible; it can be thought of and done differently in different places and contexts. Could democracy be a matter of design for different purposes and contexts; creative and experimental uses of a range of institutions enacting distinct sets of ideals?

The module explores democratic design, moving beyond the notion that there are separate ‘models’ of democracy. Looking at a range of democratic principles (equality, freedom, etc.) and institutions (from the familiar such as parliaments to the new and innovative, such as the Brazil-inspired participatory budgeting process), it interrogates the complex relationship between democracy and design, and moves towards a new set of tools to work on the design challenges posed if democracy is to remain relevant in a fast-changing world.

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Social Mobility, Educational Justice and the Family

Social mobility – and its alleged decline - is a hot political topic. To think about it seriously we need to combine empirical and normative considerations. On the empirical side, there are questions about how social mobility is conceived and measured, and about the mechanisms by which family background impacts on children’s outcomes. Normatively, one needs to evaluate different principles for the distribution of educational opportunities, and consider the ways in which parents may legitimately promote their children’s interests.

This module begins by examining what sociologists and economists tell us about patterns of social mobility, and changes in such patterns, and considers to what extent they might reflect meritocratic processes. We then evaluate a range of principles to govern the distribution of education: equality, adequacy, and benefitting the least advantaged. Attention then turns to the arguments for and against giving parents the freedom to choose their children’s schools, before broadening and deepening the agenda to cover the full range of parents’ rights over their children’s upbringing.

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Core module:

Theories and Traditions in Public Policy

Public Policy has undergone rapid transformations as a field of study over the past two decades. Once seen as the preserve of national and local governments, nowadays we also talk of policy made by networks of ‘governance’ that transcend national borders, government departments and traditional hierarchies, let alone the larger scale forces that constrain and drive policy. This module introduces you to the historical development of policy studies as a field of interdisciplinary social inquiry but one that is also fundamentally orientated towards practical application, policy analysis and professional development.

The main objective of this module is to develop an advanced understanding of approaches to the study of public policy. The concern is to identify and analyse the scholarly currents and traditions of policy studies; core concepts in policy analysis; the main theories of policy change and innovation.

The module will be structured over two terms. The first theme aims at developing an appreciation of the origins of public policy as both a field of scholarly endeavour and as a profession. The second theme concentrates on key concepts encountered in the study of public policy. The third theme addresses the main theories and explanations of policy change and policy subsystems prevalent in the literature alongside some new departures in the field such as global public policy and the so-called ‘devolution turn’. Perennial questions pertaining to democracy and representation in policy formulation and ‘speaking truth to power’ conclude the module.

Why do bad ideas become policy and good ideas languish for years? Does democracy get in the way of policy, or is the policy profession itself anti-democratic? Can citizens even have much influence on policy in a globalising, networked world? Governments are facing more, and more complex, demands every day. Their ability to deliver on those demands is increasingly circumscribed.

If we want to make a difference in the world, we need to understand the limits and possibilities of policy making in modern democracies.

This programme combines an understanding of descriptive and normative theory, with the practice of policy analysis and our world-leading work on transnational policy-making. You will identify and analyse the main traditions of policy studies, the core concepts of policy analysis, and theories of policy change. By combining the core module with other topical modules in our department, you will be able to specialise your policy analysis expertise through the lens of a particular region, development, political economy, security, gender, democratisation, etc. This programme is ideal if you want to pursue advanced conceptual studies in Politics, and if want to give those studies an applied focus.

All of our MA programmes are worth 180 CATS (credits) in total. As part of this course, you will be required to take one core module, listed below (40 CATS). You’ll then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS) that appeal to you from our extensive range of optional modules (see table on page 8 for complete list of these). If you pass the taught modules, you will move on to the second phase of the masters programme and complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 CATS).

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MA Research in Politics & International Studies

If you're interested in doing research, not only in policy and politics, but also in the academic world, then this is the programme for you. This MA is an ESRC recognised research training programme and is prestigious and of high quality. A lot of students taking this programme will continue on to research for a PhD either at Warwick or elsewhere.

Quantitative skills were identified as a key deficiency in British political science by the ESRC benchmarking study, and the quantitative module gives you an ability to analyse and interpret quantitative evidence. Qualitative methods remain important, however, and the module on those methods looks at the underlying theory, the techniques themselves and the ethical issues they pose. Explanation in social science considers the key challenges that are encountered in attempts to explain and takes an interdisciplinary perspective. All study of politics eventually involves comparison, but this involves a series of methodological challenges, and the comparative politics module equips you to tackle them. You can then take optional modules from a broad menu of choices.

Our MA RPAIS will offer you outstanding research training, and complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 CATS). If you pass the taught modules, you will be required to take four core modules, listed below (80 CATS). You’ll then have the freedom to select 1-2 modules (40 CATS) that appeal to you from our extensive range of optional modules (see table on page 8 for complete list of these). If you pass the taught modules, you will move on to the second phase of the masters programme and complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (40 CATS).

Core modules:
The programme is structured with four core compulsory modules to provide training in key research skills.

Data Analysis and Interpretation
Methods are central skills for analysing politics. Among the multiple methods developed by political scientists or imported by them from other disciplines, statistics hold a substantial position. Modern politics are about mobilising numerous resources and governing masses of people. Understanding (and practising) political numbers, whether election results, political behaviours, values and opinions, organisational data or macro-data in international relations and international political economy, more and more requires statistical tools. This module gives you an ability to analyse and interpret quantitative evidence.

Qualitative Methods
Methods are central skills for analysing politics. The best way to justify an argument is to show how it was elaborated and that it is based on a strong methodological tradition. In this course, you’ll examine several of these traditions and the methods they developed over time—only setting aside statistical methods, which are covered in the Data Analysis and Interpretation module.

The course will follow two objectives: improving your ability to read and discuss academic texts that include a range of distinct methods, as well as non-academic texts issued by the press, the administration or political organisations; acquiring, analysing and interpreting qualitative data, either from primary or secondary sources. This module examines the underlying theory, techniques, and ethical issues in qualitative research.

Explanation in Social Science
What is involved in providing an explanation? How is explanation distinct from and related to interpretation? Sometimes people fail to satisfy the conditions of ‘rational action’. Is this a problem for the theory or a problem for the people? This module explores philosophical and methodological arguments relevant to research in the social and political sciences with special focus on the nature of explanation in the social sciences. In this module, you will consider the key challenges that are encountered in attempts to explain from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Comparative Politics
Why do political regimes and institutions develop how they do, where they do? Why are some countries democratic and others not? What role does culture play in contemporary politics? What effects do different institutional designs have upon political outcomes? Why do different ethnic groups sometimes live together peacefully, and sometimes not? This module introduces the core issues, methods, and concepts of comparative politics and provides a broad range of methods and approaches used in the field.

By the end of the module, you’ll possess an excellent knowledge of key methodological debates in comparative politics and skills of comparative analysis which enable you to analyse, interpret and compare a number of countries. You should also have an understanding of key issues in comparative politics and the ability to produce an analytical piece of comparative research. This module will equip you to tackle the methodological challenges arising in political research.

New Rising World Powers
Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Mexico. These world powers are sometimes known by the acronym BRICSAM. On this module, you will look at the political systems, political economy and international relations of 6 rising world powers from (largely) the developing world.

This module will first of all focus on the domestic political systems of these states, viewed through the conceptual lens of ‘liberal or illiberal democracy’. It will examine and compare the different forms of democracy that each claim to practise or to which they claim to aspire. Then it will turn to their domestic political economies. Again, a common set of conceptual lenses will be used, this time those of the ‘developmental state’ syndrome and the concept of different national ‘varieties’ of capitalism.

The module will conclude by looking at the foreign policy interactions of these states, to develop insights into the likely impact of their rise on world politics. To focus the perspective, you’ll also look at historical precedents of the impact of rising powers in earlier periods of world history, particularly the impact of rising Germany on Europe at the end of the 19th century.
MA US Foreign Policy

What are the main sources of US foreign policy making? What is the balance between power and principle in US foreign policy? What are the main threats to national security and how are they confronted? Why is the US fighting international terrorism and can it ever be defeated?

As a leading global power, the United States and its foreign affairs have a significant impact upon international relations, both in terms of policy and academic scholarship.

This significance has grown in the 15 years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent ‘war on terror’ in ways that have been reflected in the development of the academic literature and in the increased level of interest in the subject area. With a high concentration of US Foreign Policy experts in our department, we are in a unique position to bring cutting-edge, in-depth knowledge and discussion to postgraduate study in this field. This programme focuses on US foreign policy in the context of national security as well as wider aspects of the country’s foreign policy and its impact in the areas of the economy, international relations, and particularly security.

All of our MA programmes are worth 180 CATS (credits) in total. As part of this course, you will be required to take one core module, listed below (40 CATS). You’ll then have the freedom to select 2-4 modules (80 CATS) that appeal to you from our extensive range of optional modules (see table on page 8 for complete list of these). If you pass the taught modules, you will move on to the second phase of the masters programme. Consequently, while studying for an MA in US Foreign Policy I was able to complete a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 CATS).

Core module: United States Foreign Policy and National Security

The module offers a comprehensive analysis of the foreign policy and national security of the United States of America. Overall, the module adopts a critical perspective by encouraging you to reflect upon the implications of policy making and to engage with and question assumptions made by policymakers as well as by contemporary scholars of US foreign relations, US security policy, and the study of International Security. You’ll engage with the academic study of US foreign and security policy, and with the implications of policy making in the US context.

On this module you will tackle questions including: What are the main theoretical and conceptual approaches to the study of US foreign and security policy? What role do domestic politics and other societal sources play in the formation and implementation of US foreign policy? How do American political culture and national identity influence the making of foreign policy and the US engagement with the world? How important are economic imperatives in determining the course of US foreign policy? Why and how does the US resort to force in its international relations? How seriously does the US take non-traditional threats to its security such as climate change, poverty, disease, migration and cyber attacks? What are the most important issues determining US relations with regions such as East Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia, and Europe? What role does popular culture play in helping us understand the foreign policy and security of the United States? How have technological developments, such as unmanned drones, impacted on the objectives and methods of US security policy?

The CIA and Covert Action

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is a vital instrument in the defence of US national security, yet attracts enormous controversy. Having been pilloried for its faulty intelligence that led to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, it has since been criticized for use of so-called “black sites” and enhanced interrogation techniques. Meanwhile, through films like the Jason Bourne series, Hollywood has popularised the view that the CIA has mindless, often bumbling, agents roaming the world.

This module poses a series of interesting and important questions. One, what role has the CIA played in the protection of US national security? Two, how far has the CIA gone beyond its chartered responsibilities and undermined American core values? Three, to what extent has the CIA operated as a “rogue elephant”? Four, which Presidents have been good “users” of the CIA? And finally, what does the public have a “right to know” about the CIA? From start to finish, students will pay particular attention to the use of covert action – attempts by the CIA to influence the world through inter alia psychological warfare, propaganda, and coup d’etats.

You’ll be given a thorough understanding of the place of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in US foreign and security policy. The core module will tackle issues of covert action and international relations. Close attention will be given to the fine lines that exist between: a) national security and civil liberties; b) secrecy and openness; and c) privacy and security. Covert action is also a central element of this module. You’ll study a whole range of covert actions from economic warfare to paramilitary operations and assassination.

After spending a thoroughly enjoyable three years as an undergraduate in PAIS, when I decided to pursue a master’s degree it was the obvious place to choose. Its friendly and vibrant atmosphere is one that encourages students to personally and academically thrive while being guided by world-class researchers. For me, a stand-out feature of PAIS is the diverse range of modules, any of which can be studied regardless of your degree programme. Consequently, while studying for an MA in US Foreign Policy I was able to take modules on Borders and Migration and the Global Food System, thus ensuring I will graduate with a broad, as well as deep, knowledge of issues in political science.

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MA US Foreign Policy

Tom Peel

MA US Foreign Policy

Featured: optional module

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The CIA and Covert Action
Secrecy and Spies: British Intelligence in the Modern World

For most of the twentieth century, the British intelligence community operated completely in the shadows. Heads of agencies were not named; the doors to the intelligence archives remained firmly closed; and parliamentary discussion about espionage was strictly forbidden. Any MP who dared to ask a question about intelligence risked being made a pariah; it was not only against the national interest to mention intelligence in the House, but un-gentlemanly.

Today, however, the picture is very different. In 2009, both the Security Service (MI5) and the Secret Service (SIS/MI6) celebrated their centenary by publishing large authorised histories. A further watershed was achieved in 2013 when Britain’s three top spy chiefs (MI5’s Andrew Parker; SIS’s John Sawyers; and GCHQ’s Iain Lobban) spoke at an unprecedented televised hearing to respond to allegations made by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The one hundred year anniversary of Britain’s professional intelligence community, coupled with growing public curiosity about intelligence matters triggered by debates about ‘dodgy dossiers’, rendition and mass surveillance programmes, presents an opportunity to think about intelligence in the Modern World.

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The one hundred year anniversary of Britain’s professional intelligence community, coupled with growing public curiosity about intelligence matters triggered by debates about ‘dodgy dossiers’, rendition and mass surveillance programmes, presents an opportunity to think about intelligence in the Modern World.

Global Economic Governance

Who writes the rules that govern the global economy? How has economic globalization shaped the dynamics of global governance? What are the contemporary challenges for global economic governance, and how might they be resolved? We live in an age of economic crises, the causes and consequences of which are beyond the scope of national governments to resolve on their own. How and why the global economy is governed, by whom, and for whose benefit, are fundamental issues that impact upon global economic stability, growth, and development.

This module examines both the evolving architecture and the contemporary practice of global economic governance, the prospects and challenges for political change in the global economic order, as well as who are the ‘winners’ and ‘losers’ from contemporary models of global economic governance, and why. Through a focus on the key actors, issues, and problems in global economic governance, you’ll be provided with the knowledge and tools to address these questions.

This module will equip you with an understanding of the contemporary actors, forums, and institutions that provide the main pillars of global economic governance. Previous topics covered include: The UN and the Millennium Development Goals, Global Labour Standards, The International Monetary Fund and Crisis Management, Global Economic Governance and Rising Powers.

New Security Challenges

This module provides a critical introduction to debates concerning a range of perceived ‘new’ security challenges which are increasingly important for shaping global agendas in the 21st century. You’ll critically analyse and understand the broad range of issues on global security agendas, interrogating them from international, regional, state, organisational and human security perspectives. To do this the module is organised into four parts.

Part one analyses the changing nature of war and conflict, including issues of terrorism, counter-terrorism and debates about the legitimacy of military intervention and peacekeeping. Part two looks at the role of global and regional organisations in providing security and responding to major international security problems. Part three analyses a number of so-called ‘new security challenges’ that have become increasingly central to international security agendas since the end of the Cold War. Included here are issues of energy, poverty, health, climate change and immigration. Finally, part four analyses various contested sites of security, looking at how the global commons, gender, borders and global cultural heritage operate as sites for the construction and contestation of security.

Throughout the module you’ll be encouraged to reflect on how security agendas are constructed, by whom, for whose benefit and with what effects and what the various available policy options are for tackling them. You’ll also be encouraged to consider whether the constitution of issues as matters of security is necessarily a positive move in the first place and whether the labelling of increasingly diverse concerns as matters of ‘security’ fails to set priorities?

The Politics of Development in Southeast Asia

Throughout this module, you’ll consider how economic and social development goals are pursued in four Southeast Asian states (Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia and the Philippines) and you’ll explore the problems and dilemmas that arise in relation to development planning and policy-making.

This module is as much about the politics of development (how we understand development, who benefits from development, why particular development trajectories and ideas are privileged over others) as it is about the political economy of specific Southeast Asian states.

Initially, you’ll be introduced to the four case study countries and you’ll be asked to consider why it is that some states are deemed to be developmental success stories and others are not. Have some states been able to successfully pursue ‘growth with equity’ and why does poverty persist? The first part of the module then focuses on the different ways in which development has been and is being pursued in the region in relation to: (a) modes of national development planning; (b) the agendas of International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank; (c) the ongoing marketisation of everyday life; and, (d) gender and development agendas.

The second part of the module is more focused on specific social groupings (elites/oligarchs, middle classes, workers, women, migrants and peasants) and how they have been affected by processes associated with economic development. Have some of these groups benefited from the way in which economic development has been pursued in the region? Do the activities of some of these groups serve to uphold or even challenge forms of development politics salient in the region?
The Global Political Economy of the Household

Why do studies of the global political economy consistently overlook the household? This question is all the more puzzling given the role that household debt and housing finance played in 2008’s global financial crisis; the extent to which production within global supply chains is undertaken by home-based workers; the role that unpaid household labour plays in shoring up the productive economy; and, the emergence of global systems of migration based on the movement of mainly women to take up employment as domestic workers. You’ll be asked to consider how to incorporate a focus on the household into studies of the global political economy.

Part one of the module introduces you to the main theoretical approaches to the study of the political economy of the household. This section, which will draw upon a range of theoretical literatures and illustrative case studies, will provide you with a ‘toolkit’ of ideas for thinking about and analysing the role of the household in IPE. Theories covered will include classical political economy approaches; neo/liberal understandings of household bargaining; recent writings focussed on the political econom(ies) of care, reproduction and global householding; and, writings that present the household as a site for the econ(omies) of care, reproduction and global householding; and, writings that present the household as a site for the reproduction of ideas about gender roles and sexuality.

Part two is more case study focused. This section of the module will focus to some extent on the origins, analysis and consequences of financial crises in a world of international capital mobility. The module will focus to some extent on the origins, analysis and consequences of financial crises in a world of international capital mobility. The class does NOT address issues of aid or development.

Politics of Global Finance

Global finance is big business. Prior to the onset of financial crisis in 2008 around $2 trillion was traded in the foreign exchange markets each day. In this world order, capital moves from one location to another increasingly unhindered by government controls. Bond rating agencies issue judgments on the bonds of foreign governments, affecting the cost of borrowing and the lives of millions. Whether this world should continue in this form after the financial crisis is a question motivating many observers and participants.

This module examines the world of global finance from a political perspective. Through the study of a variety of contemporary issues, an examination of the history of finance and ongoing discussion about the theories competing to explain it, the module enables students to recognise the profoundly political nature of financial relationships and to understand how finance interacts with other areas of life in both public and private spheres. The module will focus to some extent on the origins, analysis and consequences of financial crises in a world of international capital mobility. The class does NOT address issues of aid or development.

Informed by a mix of international political economy and social theory, the module focuses on the analysis of global financial politics, with fundamental questions about power, hegemony, social control and the evolving dynamics of capitalism amongst its central concerns. If you are interested in these aspects of global finance, then it is the right module for you.

International Relations of the Middle East

The starting point for this module is a rejection of the notion that the Middle East is somehow ‘different’ from the West and limited by its ‘traditions’ and ‘culture’ (particularly Islam). Instead, you’ll be encouraged in this module to think about the Middle East and its relations with the West in terms of historically-constituted processes and relations of power. We’ll explore how different paradigms for the study of International Relations/International Political Economy can help us to understand the international relations, politics and political economy of the Middle East.

We’ll look into the origins of the state system in the Middle East and its implications for relations between Middle East states and the West as well as among Middle East states and between Middle East states and their populations. We’ll also examine the development of capitalism in the Middle East, the region’s incorporation into the global political economy and its implications for state development and Middle East relations with the West.

You’ll look at processes of state-building and their implications for state-society relations, the configuration of social relations of power and the emergence of social movements challenging the status quo. We’ll explore the construction of different identities (ethnic and religious) and emergence of different ideologies (Arab nationalism, Islamism, socialism, amongst others) throughout the twentieth and early twenty-first century and their implications for state processes, the emergence of social movements and relations with the West.

Everyday Political Theory

This new module explores the idea that political theory is practised - made and presented - in a greater variety of places and time-frames, and by a wider variety of actors, than it is commonly assumed. How might we argue that systematic thinking about politics takes place, and matters, in galleries, among journalists and other writers, and indeed among citizens? The module examines critically the reasons for delving into the everyday life of political ideas. It includes project work focusing on the practice of political theory in everyday contexts, including various ‘old’ and ‘new’ media.

Through the module we’ll look at making an assessment of the importance of quotidian political ideas and theorising by exploring critically resources from a variety of schools of political theory. We’ll then look at how we might construct an account of everyday political theory from these and other resources. This includes a framework for analysis, drawing on concepts such as ‘thick description’, essential contestability, partisanship, non-ideal theory, interpretation and ‘ordinary democracy’.

You’ll be guided through focused project work on the everyday political theory of a selection of core political principles, which may include democracy, equality, freedom, and representation. Example topics include: One Way In: Theory, theorists and ‘strange silences’; Ideal and non-ideal theory and normativity; The view from nowhere, somewhere, here, there, elsewhere? The situated theorist and questions of language; Experimental theatre as a site for exploring political ideas.
What do Warwick Politics and International Studies MA graduates do?

Six months after graduating over 82% of Warwick Politics and International Studies MA Graduates were in jobs or further study.

Examples of Warwick Politics and International Studies MA graduates’ job titles include:

- Monitoring Journalist for BBC Monitoring
- Elected Councillor, Coventry City Council
- Software developer, ETEM
- Information Projects Officer, National Youth Agency
- Communications & Intelligence Coordinator, Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum
- HR Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission Thailand
- Civil Service Fast Stream
- Political Researcher, Welsh Conservatives
- Corporate Communications Executive, Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Bank
- Communications & Intelligence Coordinator, Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum
- Intern at the European Union
- Software developer, ETEM
- Elected Councillor, Coventry City Council
- Monitoring Journalist for BBC Monitoring
- My only advice to people considering work in public service is to challenge you to think up new solutions to the issues we face.
- I would always wanted my Masters degree to feel like an issue of The Economist - a vibrant mixture of economics, politics, security studies, and above all, a critical approach to international relations. Thankfully, I didn’t have to choose, since the Warwick MA allows you to literally pick and choose: I pursued modules in political finance, international relations theory, and critical security studies!
- I’m currently working as Assistant Private Secretary to the Governor at the Bank of England, and no two days in Governor’s office are the same. My job is simply to ensure that the Governor is never unprepared. He could be walking into a dinner with the Chancellor, a shoot with the CEOs of the UK’s biggest banks, or on a plane to China to sign a swap agreement with the People’s Bank; my job is to make sure he knows the right things and speaks to the right people at the right time so he can make the right decisions. The exposure to different strands of economics and politics is extraordinary. Most of all, I’m proud to say I work with people much smarter than me. You learn simply by sitting in the same room as the people I work with - let alone when they challenge you to think up new solutions to the issues we face.
- My advice for anyone thinking of applying to Warwick is to give yourself plenty of time to arrange plans and funding. Choose the right course for you and you won’t be disappointed.
- My MA in International Political Economy has equipped me with several instrumental skills: sharp analytical abilities, good interpersonal communication, research and editing/writing skills and the confidence to tackle the problems that I encounter and to comment on new cases with a different point of view. This experience has turned out to be the turning point of my career, as I have always wanted to contribute to human capital in developing countries, create cohesive societies and empower women.
- What do Warwick Politics and International Studies MA graduates do?
Next steps

Once you have decided which MA programme is right for you, you can begin preparing your application. There are three basic questions to ask before you submit your application:

Do I meet the entry requirements?
Do I have all of the necessary documents to hand?
Will I be able to submit my application in time?

Once the answer to these questions is ‘yes,’ you can head to the Warwick website and submit your application electronically: warwick.ac.uk/pgapply.

Entry requirements

There are four entry requirements that you must meet in order to be eligible for our MA programmes:

1. An upper-second class (2:1) honours degree or equivalent. Your undergraduate degree should be in the area of politics and international studies or a closely related subject. However, all serious applications from other disciplines will be considered.

2. A strong academic reference. When you apply, you will be able to supply your referee’s contact details, and we will request a reference from them directly. If you graduated more than two years ago, you may supply a professional referee instead, if you are no longer in touch with your undergraduate tutors.

3. A good statement of purpose. This personal statement is your opportunity to explain why you would make a great MA student. Typical statements are 1-2 pages long; you should include:
   a. Your motivation. Why this particular MA, and why Warwick?
   b. Your background. How has your education, extracurricular activities, and/or professional experience prepared you for rigorous postgraduate study in this area? This is particularly important if your undergraduate degree is not in the area of politics.
   c. Your expectations. How does this degree fit into your future plans?—what do you hope to gain from it?

4. Fluency in English. If English is not your first language, you must have an IELTS score of 7.0 with no more than two components at 6.5 and none below 6.5. If your previous education was in the UK or another English speaking country, you may be exempt from this requirement, but please enquire to be certain. Please also note that taking a pre-sessional English course at Warwick or elsewhere is not sufficient to replace an IELTS score at the required level.

Supporting documents

In order to make a decision on your application, we will need to see some documents that demonstrate you meet the above requirements. You should supply these electronically in the first instance; if you receive an official offer, Admissions will tell you precisely which original hard copies are required to secure an unconditional offer. When you submit your application, you will receive a link where you can upload your documents for review:

1. Transcript. If you have not yet finished your degree, you can send us an interim transcript and simply state in your application what your final classification, GPA, or average is expected to be.

2. Reference(s). As mentioned above, we will contact your referees directly, but if they do not respond in a reasonable timeframe we may contact you and ask that you remind them to submit your reference.

3. Statement of purpose. You can either paste your statement into the space provided on the application form or, if it’s too long to fit in the allocated space, upload it as a pdf or Word document.

4. English test (if applicable). You do not need to supply your IELTS certificate straight away; however, please ensure you arrange to take your English test sooner rather than later so that you can secure an unconditional offer in time to apply for your visa (if needed) and start your course on time.

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1. Transcript. If you have not yet finished your degree, you can send us an interim transcript and simply state in your application what your final classification, GPA, or average is expected to be.

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Timings

We review applications on a rolling basis, so you should submit your application as soon as you are ready. We will normally make a decision on your application within four working weeks of receiving all necessary documents.

Overseas candidates must apply no later than 31 July, while there is no deadline for Home/EU candidates, we strongly recommend applying by 31 July as well in order to ensure enough time is left to sort out logistics such as accommodation.

If you plan to apply for funding, please read the scholarship criteria carefully: if you need an offer in order to apply for funding, please allow enough time for your MA application to be processed. Deadlines and details about scholarships available can be found at warwick.ac.uk/mapolitics/funding.

Double degrees

If you are applying for one of our Double Degree Programmes then please refer to the webpage of that individual degree for information on how to apply: warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/study/ studymasters/doubles

Further information

- Further information about fees and funding, including scholarships available for MA students can be found on our fees and funding webpage: warwick.ac.uk/pais/studymasters/funding
- If you have any questions about your eligibility or about the application process, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us at paispg@warwick.ac.uk
- Find out more detail about course courses and department by visiting our departmental website: warwick.ac.uk/pais
- Visit the university to get a feel for yourself. See warwick.ac.uk/pg/visits
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