

Master of Research International Relations

Programme Requirements

International Relations - MRes
60 credits from Module List: SS5101 - SS5104 and IR5601 (30 credits) and (30 credits from Module List: IR5401 - IR5402 (IPT) or 30 credits from Module List: IR5001, IR5036 (ISS) or 30 credits from Module List: IR5501 and (IR5510 or IR5527) (MECASS) or 30 credits from Module List: IR5151, IR5701 (PCS) or 30 credits from Module List: IR5800 - IR5801 (SS)) and IR5099 (60 credits)

Compulsory modules:

SS5101 Being a Social Scientist				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	3.00 - 5.00 pm Fri			
Through a series of interactive seminars this two-part module explores the fundamental skills required by all social scientists. In part one, the module will focus on how to design and produce a research dissertation. Assessment will be in the form of a critical essay that analyses the research design of a selection of papers. In part two, issues of professional development (e.g. ethics, careers, grant writing) will be addressed. Assessment will be in the form of a class test in which you will review and comment on two research proposals.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Human Geography / Sustainable Development. Compulsory for various MRes Programmes outwith the School. Optional for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc), for Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics (MSc), for Sustainable Development (MSc), for Sustainable Development and Energy (MSc). Optional for various other MRes Programmes			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Kesby			

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SS5102 Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Sciences				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	3.00 pm - 5.00 pm Wed			
This seminar-based module will introduce you to the basic theoretical approaches in the social sciences, encourage you to make connections between the methodological and epistemological issues involved in conducting social scientific research, and inspire you to reflect critically your own experience. The module will cover modern philosophy's historical evolution, positivism, feminism, critical theory and post-structuralism among other topics. Assessment will involve a one short review and one longer essay.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Human Geography / Sustainable Development, for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc) and various other MRes Programmes Optional for Sustainable Development (MRes), Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics (MSc) Optional for various other MRes Programmes			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	TBC (Colleagues from International Relations)			

SS5103 Qualitative Methods in Social Research				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Tue			
This seminar-based module offers both a theoretical and practical introduction to the collection, analysis and writing of qualitative social science research. Among other things, the module will cover positionality/ethics, archives, participant observation, participatory approaches, semi-structured interviewing and the use of NVIVO/computer aided qualitative data analysis. Assessment will involve a short reflection on field experience and a longer critical essay on a chosen aspect of qualitative research.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Human Geography / Sustainable Development Compulsory for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc) Compulsory for various other MRes Programmes Optional for Sustainable Development (MSc), Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics (MSc) Optional for various other MRes Programmes			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	Dr M Kesey and Dr D Williams			

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SS5104 Quantitative Research in Social Science				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	1.00 - 5.00 pm Mon			
This module provides a user-friendly introduction to the fundamental concepts of quantitative analysis. It will cover underlying principles, terminology, research design, sampling strategies, uncertainty and missing data, computerised data management and univariate and multivariate approaches to data analysis. The assessment will be in the form of practical tasks completed in class and/or independently.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Human Geography / Sustainable Development Compulsory for MSc Psychology (Conversion). Compulsory for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc) Compulsory for various other MRes Programmes. Optional for Sustainable Development (MSc), Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics (MSc) Optional for various other MRes Programmes			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 3-hour combined lecture and practical session.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	Dr J Ales			

IR5601 Research Methods in International Relations				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Tue			
This is a required module for all MRes, PhD and MPhil students in the School of International Relations. It is designed to assist students in understanding the purpose and approaches of international relations scholarship, and to assist them in developing and carrying out their research. As such, it addresses a range of topics, from the history and philosophy of the social sciences to specific research methods.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for the completion of the MRes, PhD and MPhil Programmes in the School of International Relations.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Prof T Lang			

IR5099 Dissertation for MLitt Programme/s				
SCOTCAT Credits:	60	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
Planned timetable:	5.00 pm - 6.00 pm Thu or 11.00 am - 12.00 noon Fri			
Student dissertations will be supervised by members of the teaching staff who will advise on the choice of subject and provide guidance throughout the research process. The completed dissertation of not more than 15,000 words must be submitted by the end of August.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for International Political Theory, International Security Studies, Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies MLitt Postgraduate Programmes and International Relations MRes Programme. Optional for Central and East European Studies Postgraduate Programme.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: Individual Supervision			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework (Dissertation) = 100%			
Module coordinator:	TBC			

Compulsory for MPhil:

IR5601 Research Methods in International Relations				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Tue			
This is a required module for all MRes, PhD and MPhil students in the School of International Relations. It is designed to assist students in understanding the purpose and approaches of international relations scholarship, and to assist them in developing and carrying out their research. As such, it addresses a range of topics, from the history and philosophy of the social sciences to specific research methods.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for the completion of the MRes, PhD and MPhil Programmes in the School of International Relations.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Prof T Lang			

Optional modules:

IR5401 Texts in International Political Theory				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Tue			
This module begins by examining the concept of 'international theory' as it has developed within International Relations since 1945 and introduces students to the broader idea of international political thought. The main body of the module consists of close readings and analysis of classic texts in the field, including works by figures such as Aristotle, Augustine, Hobbes, , Rousseau, Mill, Nietzsche and Marx along with more contemporary figures such as Rawls, Connolly, and Agamben.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for International Political Theory Postgraduate Programme. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminars.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr V Paipais			
Module teaching staff:	Prof A Lang, Dr V Paipais, Dr N Saunders			

IR5402 Analysis and Interpretation in International Political Theory				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Wed			
This module introduces students to the methods and interpretive approaches that can be taken in the study of international political theory. It surveys a range of approaches to critical analysis, each examined through the work of prominent representatives, and considers questions regarding the conceptual, historical and normative interpretation of political theory texts.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for International Political Theory Postgraduate Programme. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminars.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Prof P Hayden			

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IR5001 International Security				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	one of 10.00 am - 12.00 noon Wed or 11.00 am - 1.00 pm Thu - In week 1 Thu session changed to Tue 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm.			
<p>This module introduces students to important issues and significant debates in security studies. We begin by examining the nature of war, strategy, and alliances.</p> <p>We then analyze the structure and impact of military power, including both conventional and nuclear weapons. We then probe the causes of interstate war, from domestic politics to the structure of the state system, to bargaining models. Finally, we turn to domestic conflict and delve into the dynamics of insurgency, counterinsurgency, and peacekeeping.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for International Security Studies Postgraduate Programme. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 40%, Midterm Examination = 20%, Coursework = 40%			
Module coordinator:	Dr H Tamm			

IR5036 Critical Security Studies				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	10.00 am -11.00 am Mon			
<p>This module will examine the challenge to traditional conceptions of security presented by the emergence of Critical Security Studies since the end of the Cold War. Students will explore what it means to study the concept and practice of security from a critical perspective. They will examine the various theoretical traditions that have informed critical security studies and the methodological implications for the analysis of different types of security contexts, ranging from alliance relations, terrorism, the environment, migration, famine, etc.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for International Security Studies Optional for International Relations MRes Programme. Optional for other Postgraduate Taught Programmes within the School.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module coordinator:	Dr C Gentry			

IR5501 Core in Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Tue			
<p>This module focuses on major themes in the study of international security and applies them to the study of the Middle East and Central Asia. These addressed may include war and political violence, nationalism and ethnic conflict, arms control and nuclear proliferation, democratisation and theories of globalisation as they impact on the region (e.g. clash of civilisations).</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies Postgraduate Programme. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2- to 3-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module coordinator:	Prof R Hinnebusch, Prof R Fawn			

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IR5510 Central Asia in World Order				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed			
<p>Dramatically and unexpectedly, Central Asia was thrust to independence in 1991. Of all the Soviet republics, the five of Central Asia - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - had been the largest net recipients of Soviet aid, had benefited most economically from the Soviet Union and had thus been the most reluctant to break from the Soviet empire. Once the path of independence was followed, each of these five states faced considerable ethnic, state, economic, social and foreign policy challenges. This course aims to analyse these nation- and state-building agendas, seeking to address critically some of the now widely held assumptions about this post-Soviet area. Moreover, located in one of the world's most strategic zones, between Russia, China and a troubled Middle East, Central Asia relies on its substantial human and natural resources in the renegotiation of its geopolitical status.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies Optional for Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies (IR5029, IR5058, IR5510 or IR5527) Optional for International Security Studies Postgraduate Programme Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 lecture and 1 tutorial.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Fumagalli			

IR5151 Issues in Peace and Conflict				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	4.00 pm - 6.00 pm Tue			
<p>This is a core module for the Masters programme in Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS). It is explicitly designed to be taken alongside its allied core module, IR 5701 Peace and Conflict Theory. Like that module it is concerned with examining the fundamental nature of war and peace but it focuses on a comparative assessment of real world examples from the past and contemporary scene. In particular, it concentrates on evaluating practical approaches commonly undertaken to try to end conflict by various actors ranging from the benign ('can't we just sit down and talk about this?') to the risky ('should we bomb to end wars?') or even horrific ('why not kill them all?'). In short, it aims to encourage reflection on 'what works' in peace-building.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Peace and Conflict Studies Postgraduate Programme. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 lecture and 1 seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr R Brett			

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IR5701 Peace and Conflict Theory				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	one of 10.00 am - 12.00 noon Tue and 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm Thu			
<p>Since the end of the Cold War, the predominant forms through which conflict is waged have transformed, precipitating profound changes both in the nature of international and intra-State conflict and in those national and international efforts to resolve and transform conflict.</p> <p>Understanding the nature of conflict and collective responses to it provides vital insights into the changing nature of the international system and into the emergence and development of those new (non-State) actors that have begun increasingly to influence and redefine it.</p> <p>This module will analyse how and why the principal theoretical frameworks and practices employed to comprehend conflict, violence and peace building have evolved over the last decades, situating this analysis within a series of key case studies.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for the Peace and Conflict Studies Postgraduate Programme. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module coordinator:	Dr J McMullin			

IR5800 Modern War and Strategy				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Thu			
<p>The module will provide students with essential knowledge of strategy and military history. It will be taught in tandem with the second core module of the MLitt in Strategic Studies, which focuses on the history of strategic thought. Taken together, both modules will equip students with an overview of the academic field of strategic studies. It will also help students acquire the necessary skills and techniques for independent further study of topics and questions in strategic studies.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Strategic Studies Postgraduate programme. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr P O'Brien			

IR5801 Strategic Thought				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Mon			
<p>The module will provide students with essential knowledge of strategic theory and the history of strategic thought. It will equip students with an overview of the academic field of strategic studies. It will also help students acquire the necessary skills and techniques for independent further study of topics and questions in strategic studies.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Strategic Studies Postgraduate programme. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Prof H Strachan			

