UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

Published Date:	10-Jun-2026
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Status:	Course currently being validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social Science, Humanities and Creative Industries		
Course Code(s):	HS014P35UD	Part-time Distance Learning	30 Months
Course Title:	MA Air, Space and Cyber Power Studies by Distance Learning		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Arts Air, Space and Cyber Power Studies Postgraduate Diploma Air, Space and Cyber Power Studies Postgraduate Certificate Air, Space and Cyber Power Studies University Statement of Credit Air, Space and Cyber Power Studies		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:			
Last Review:			
Course Specification valid from:			
Course Specification valid to:			

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Professor John Buckley
Head of Department:	

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership)
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

A 2:1 in a relevant degree is desirable, but applicants with other qualifications and non-graduates will be considered on individual merits.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This part-time distance learning MA is a focused, research-led degree that allows you to combine academic rigour with a format designed for busy lives. Teaching is delivered asynchronously through our virtual learning platforms blending expert lectures, student-led analysis, and discussions that fit with your personal or professional life. The asynchronous flexibility allows you to learn from leading scholars whilst actively developing your own voice as an analyst of contemporary challenges in conflict and international competition no matter where you are or when your availability to study occurs each week. You independently decide when you engage each semester. Whilst the direction of your studies open to your interests.

Students can expect themed modules in topics that are rarely found at institutions individually, let alone in this combination. The modules span strategic, operational, and tactical concerns. They include increasing political, societal, economic and technical challenges alongside increasing private enterprise influence on peacetime competition, crises, and conflict.

The curriculum is kept current with debates across key interdisciplinary fields that enables professional development for practitioners by assessing responsible employment of capabilities, whilst supporting future leaders through wider political and societal recognition in doctrinal approaches and policies internationally. Subsequently, you build appreciation for oversight and accountability in conduct and governance, a strand of interest for the specialisation of journalists, commentators, and internal oversight practitioners across the themes. The central research thread allows you the continuation of academic specialisation or across to alternate research pathways with your studies culminating in a supervised dissertation, allowing you to undertake an in-depth research project on a contemporary topic of your own choosing related to issues of contemporary warfare.

The course is taught by leading scholars with a particular specialism in contemporary conflicts, and takes place within a vibrant war studies, military history, and international relations research culture at Wolverhampton where opportunities for engagement with internal and external speakers is often conducted in a hybrid format. Students can therefore expect a supportive, discussion-rich learning community; clear scaffolding from foundational debates to specialist research; and a portfolio of advanced skills including critical reading, archival practice, structured argument and persuasive communication, preparing them for careers in heritage, education, media, policy, or further study. The synthesis of which will support the building of a portfolio in your professional development, progression in leadership, a change in career, or towards the fulfilment of original research.

Educational Aims of the Course:

Intakes:

September

January

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2022/3	H	Part time distance learning	£4615.00
2022/3	Overseas	Part time distance learning	£4615.00
2025/6	H	Part time distance learning	£5245.00
2025/6	Overseas	Part time distance learning	£5245.00
2026/7	H	Part time distance learning	£
2026/7	Overseas	Part time distance learning	£

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

January (Part-time Distance Learning)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type	
Option Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 30 Please select 1 modules from the following 4 modules; 7WR059, 7WR060, 7WR055, 7WR056. If you opt for 7WR056, this will be available to select next semester.					
7WR059	Power and Statecraft in Cyberspace	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Jason Dymydiuk
7WR060	Astropolitics: Power and Competition in Outer Space.	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Jason Dymydiuk
7WR055	Leadership, Command & Combat	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Spencer Jones

January (Part-time Distance Learning)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7WR063	Just(?) theory: examining restraints on war and their impact.	30	SEM1	Core

Option Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 30

7WR057	Tools of War	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Spencer Jones

January (Part-time Distance Learning)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7WR064	Research Project	30	CRYRA	Core

Option Group 02 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 30

Please select 1 modules from the following 3 modules;
7WR061, 7WR065, 7WR057.
If you opt for 7WR057, this will be available to select next semester.

7WR061	Asymmetric Warfare	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Jason Dymydiuk
7WR065	Strategic Air Power	30	SEM2	Core/Option	John Buckley

January (Part-time Distance Learning)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7WR062	Contemporary Conflicts: Integration of Air, Space, and Cyber Power	30	SEM1	Core

Option Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 30

7WR057	Tools of War	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Spencer Jones

September (Part-time Distance Learning)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type	
7WR062	Contemporary Conflicts: Integration of Air, Space, and Cyber Power	30	SEM1	Core	

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 30 credits and a maximum of 30 credits from the linked (*) groups.

* **Option Group 02 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 30**

7WR059	Power and Statecraft in Cyberspace	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Jason Dymydiuk
7WR060	Astropolitics: Power and Competition in Outer Space.	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Jason Dymydiuk
7WR055	Leadership, Command & Combat	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Spencer Jones

* **Option Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 30**

7WR057	Tools of War	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Spencer Jones

September (Part-time Distance Learning)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7WR063	Just(?) theory: examining restraints on war and their impact.	30	SEM1	Core
7WR0617WR065	Strategic Air Power	30	SEM2	Core
7WR064	Research Project	30	CRYRA	Core

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 30 credits and a maximum of 30 credits from the linked (*) groups.

* **Option Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 30**

7WR056	Theories of Warfare	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Adam Dighton

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Regulations Exemption:

None.

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGCERT01 Critical evaluate and apply current theories, concepts and insights informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice (Knowing).	
PGCERT02 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and practical and/or professional skills in your discipline (Knowing).	
PGCERT03 Make informed decisions on complex issues, and communicate your conclusions clearly to different audiences (Doing).	
PGCERT04 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level (Doing).	
PGCERT05 Critically analyse, identify and utilise various study methods to improve your own performance (Being).	
PGCERT06 Reflect on your own achievements, identify future goals and plan for a further career or study (Being).	
PGDIP01 Demonstrate critical evaluation of current theories, concepts and insights informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice. Show how you have applied this knowledge in original and insightful ways (Knowing).	
PGDIP02 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and practical and/or professional skills in your discipline (Knowing).	
PGDIP03 Make informed decisions on complex issues, and communicate your conclusions clearly to different audiences employing discipline conventions and expectations (Doing).	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGDIP04 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, acting independently and autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level (Doing).	
PGDIP05 Critically analyse, identify and utilise various study methods to improve your own performance (Being).	
PGDIP06 Reflect on your own achievements and plan for a future career or further study (Being).	
MA01 Analyse critically the key issues and debates informing the creation, conduct, capabilities, and impact of contemporary conflicts (Knowing).	
MA02 Negotiate, design and undertake independent research based on secondary, primary, archival, and digitised sources (Doing).	
MA03 Demonstrate a critical awareness of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline (Knowing).	
MA04 Communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences (Doing).	
MA05 Establish and maintain self-direction, innovation, and originality in tackling and solving problems (Being).	
MA06 Critically apply the qualities and professional skills necessary for employment (Being).	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

The weekly topics released in theme blocks on the Virtual Learning Environment begin with an introductory micro-lectures and transcript to support students in building confidence in foundational ideas. The micro-lectures are then followed by an expected source to engage with to promote critical awareness of the weekly topics. You can then follow suggested reading or follow your own appropriate research interest in the weekly subject to develop ideas and skills in more complex settings no matter which route you choose to take each week.

Blocks of topics allow for your flexibility in study and is inclusion of personal and professional circumstances enabling you to engage asynchronously and in balance of your time each week. In turn, we collaboratively produce an informed and engaging learning experience where your situational context is taken into account to produce deeper critical responses cross the cohort.

There are no formal placements, but the course integrates practice-based scholarship. You will complete an original dissertation designed in collaboration with your supervisor that develops advanced project management, evidence handling and communication skills valued in research, heritage, education, media and policy. Many students go on to publish aspects of their thesis, reflecting the course’s emphasis on real-world outputs and audiences.

Digital fluency is embedded throughout: you will search, appraise and reference digital archives and datasets; manage notes and bibliographies; engage critically with online materials and debates; critically reflect on official doctrines and policies; and analyse policy reports and professional publications. Ethical research practice such as accurate citation, clear evidencing and responsible use of digital tools, is taught as part of methods training and reinforced across modules and supervision.

Further skills and resources are provided through embedding Skills for Learning resources and workshops, as well as Academic English resources within the course. These set the foundational skills

for your expert tutors and supervisor to add nuance and depth to your selected topics of study and research.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

The taught module follows a clear path each term with thematic block releases allowing you to work and be assessed at your own pace, balancing individual personal and professional circumstances. The mixture of micro-lectures, online resources, and guided research culminates in student-led discussions and responses, that are iterative toward Assignment 1 – the assessment of six selected contributions - acting as stepping-stones, helping you test arguments, refine structure and strengthen your use of evidence in a supportive setting ready for Assignment 2 – a micro-research project in either written or audio-visual format. This predictable pattern provides agency over workload, time to read and reflect on feedback, and ensures you practice key skills before major submissions. Furthermore, you will have opportunity to receive personalised feedback on your essay plans and ideas from your tutor before you submit your final assessment via email or video consultation.

Assessments are built to develop your core intellectual abilities: critical review of primary and secondary sources, evaluation of competing interpretations, and clear, evidence-based argument. Early teaching explicitly equips you with Level Seven research methods, historiography, source analysis, effective library use and Internet research , so you know how to study efficiently for both coursework and the dissertation.

Accessibility and inclusion are supported through varied formats across the course optionality in assessment and through a consistent assessment timetable that enables planning around work and life commitments. University library access to hard-copy holdings, extensive e-books and e-journals, and inter-library loans reduces barriers to finding the materials you need for assessed work. As well as course specific and cross-disciplinary support in online research through tutor led sessions as well as central Skills for Learning workshops and resources.

Personalisation is built into the course module choices and being provided with a varied list of topics and formats for assessment, there is opportunity to devise a question in cooperation with your module tutor. Personalisation is fundamental to the dissertation where you choose an original research topic in cooperation with a supervisor and work through milestones together. This major project consolidates your skills in project management, evidence handling and scholarly writing. Many students go on to publish or disseminate aspects of their thesis, reflecting the programme’s emphasis on real-world research outputs and knowledge exchange in academic, professional, and wider research pathways.

Further Information for Student:

The course is structured to facilitate you to settle quickly and succeed no matter your entry point or personal circumstances. No technical knowledge is required to take the MA Air, Space, and Cyber Power Studies programme. You only need an interest in the subject area broadly; the motivation to be an independent learner and research; and access to a digital device to access our Virtual Learning Environment, support for which can be provided even as a distance learning student. The modules you take will support you through the transition to distance learning as well as conducting in-depth academic research on your negotiated topic through scaffolded support in assessment completion. You will also be provided with a personal tutor to support your transition into postgraduate study with us no matter what your previous experience might be. They can answer questions and discuss any issues or concerns you may have with study.

Your learning journey will be enhanced through models being multi-cohort. Thereby, your journey will be collaborative within each module by an increased diversity of experiences from your peers, but also stages on the programme. In turn allowing points of contact and interaction with students already on the course to build a rapport and to ask any questions as required building a cohesive and supportive distance learning cohort.

Your assessments continually support your transition as you engage with the material receiving both peer and tutor feedback and responses on your discussion entries as well as the opportunity to decide the style of assessment format that suits you – be that written, audio, or visual in format. A wide range of online resources are available to support the subjects of study as well as material to support your research skills including online workshops and resources. You also have the opportunity to corresponded with expert researchers through email or video consultation session as per any on-campus student. In all, your success is at the heart of what we do. We strive to work collaboratively with you to achieve the outcomes, experience, and skills you require from your course.

The University provides a wide range of academic and pastoral support to help students succeed in their studies and personal development. This includes access to the Library and Skills for Learning service, academic coaching for Level 3 and 4 students, and tailored advice from the Careers and Enterprise teams. Students also benefit from 24/7 wellbeing support through WLV Student Life Connect, pastoral care via the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and assistance from the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. Those living in university accommodation have additional access to Residential Life support, and all students can engage with the Students' Union for advocacy, societies, and further peer-led services.

Distance learning students can access all support, development, and wellbeing services through digital points of contact including email, the university website, and Canvas. Distance learners are also provided with a faculty support contact to guide and liaise with School and Departmental processes. All students can access support and guidance through ask@wlv.ac.uk where our University team will support you or direct you to the most appropriate team. ASK@WLV is also a place to go if you are unsure where the most appropriate team may be. Students' Union support and activities are also available to distance learning students – do enquire with your representatives.

Currency:

This MA is designed to stay current within a multidisciplinary field. Teaching and learning is conducted in themed blocks, whilst material lists and case studies are refreshed regularly by an expert team of tutors to reflect new research and debates. The latter is supported by you being encouraged to demonstrate independent research thereby diversifying the material being utilised through experience and knowledge and developing your ability to conduct cutting edge interdisciplinary research, so new scholarship can be introduced and debated in the virtual classroom, and then incorporated in your assessment.

You will engage directly with research methods from the start. Early activity develops Level 7 skills - historiography, working with primary and secondary sources, and effective use of the University Library and the Internet as research tools - so you can interrogate emerging interpretations in academia, practice, and commentary with confidence. The degree culminates in an original dissertation supervised one-to-one; many students publish elements of their thesis, evidencing authentic participation in live scholarly conversations.

The course encourages creative and critical thinking about real-world issues. You'll analyse how societies mobilised for total war; evaluate competing interpretations; and practice clear, evidence-based communication to specialist and public audiences. These skills are valued in heritage, education, media, policy and beyond.

The University's Graduate Attributes are embedded throughout:
• Global Citizen: modules examine imperial, international and societal dimensions, inviting responsible engagement with contested histories.
• Knowledgeable: you'll gain advanced subject understanding and the ability to evaluate complex evidence and historiography.
• Professional: you'll plan and deliver independent research, manage milestones, and present arguments clearly in writing and discussion.
• Digitally Fluent: you'll search, appraise and reference digital collections; manage sources; and use online tools ethically as part of method training.

Interdisciplinary thinking is built into the course: strategic, military, social and imperial perspectives are studied side-by-side, building a flexible research approach that supports lifelong learning. Structured supervision and regular feedback help you adapt to new questions and methods as the field evolves, ensuring that you graduate ready to keep learning, contribute responsibly to public understanding, and apply advanced historical thinking to contemporary challenges.

Personalisation Opportunities:

Since the programme is developed to induce independence, students are provided with the opportunity to direct their studies towards their interest and profession of choice, so long as it relevant to the module and programme of study.

This direction starts with your weekly preparation within a module. Albeit core material is expected to be reviewed to ensure that a minimum level of expected knowledge outcome. This material naturally supports you to engage critically and recognise the value of diverse and inclusive approaches to the subject of study, learning, and to your personal and professional development which are tantamount to rigorous informed research and advancement. Subsequent depth of critical engagement can be created from the provided supplementary material to help you build an informed understanding or derived from independent research of appropriate sources. Subsequently, student choice in assessment submissions further enables agency in the direction of your studies. In consultation with with tutors you can negotiate the format and topic of assignments to broaden your portfolio of research or strengthen expertise in a subject or format.

Flexibility, optionality, and depth provides you the opportunity to elect two taught modules on the programme. The structure of the course enables you to construct multiple cohesive programmes at MA, PG Dip, or PG Cert to develop a niche focus for your career path or to broaden expertise for various career prospects or the responsible progression of their profession.

The dissertation module ultimately demonstrates your self-direction and agency through the development of an appropriate topic, rigorous self-guided (albeit it supervised) research process, and the production of a disseminatable piece in a format of the students choosing – written or video – communicated effectively.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

This MA builds your professional skills through research-led teaching and regular, structured practice. Teaching runs asynchronously in weeks and blocks that blends expert lectures, student-led contributions and discussion whilst enabling flexibility of engagement and your independent research. This predictable rhythm and flexibility enables you to test ideas in a supportive setting and develop confident, professional communication before major submissions.

From the outset you will sharpen the core tools employers and researchers value at Level 7: working with primary and secondary sources, evaluating competing interpretations, and using the University Library and digital resources effectively. Method training is explicitly embedded in the course (including historiography, research design, source handling, and using the Internet as a research tool), while access to extensive e-books, e-journals, and inter-library loans helps you reach the academic materials you need without barriers.

Assessments are designed to mirror real scholarly practice. Across the taught modules you will prepare and deliver short contributions and build evidence-based research projects; these activities develop project planning, argumentation and a clear communication style. These are transferable skills for roles requiring research, analysis and communication. Hybrid research events also bring you into contact with specialist tutors and guest scholars, supporting your professional identity and networks.

As you progress, one-to-one supervision helps you design a research project that aligns with your interests and future goals. You will set milestones, refine research questions and structure, and produce an original study that demonstrates independent enquiry at Masters level. Many students go on to

publish aspects of their thesis, showing how the course encourages you to produce outputs for real audiences.

While the programme focuses on research intensive, remote, learning rather than formal placements, employability is woven through your teaching, feedback, skills resources, frameworks, and supervision. You will practise presenting your ideas to peers, receive detailed formative guidance, and learn to translate complex evidence into clear, persuasive conclusions. These are capabilities valued across public history and other professional contexts. By graduation, you will have a coherent portfolio of work, a sharper scholarly voice, and the confidence to apply advanced historical thinking to the next step in your career or further study.

