UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
School / Institute:	School of Social Science, Humanities and Creative Industries
Course Code(s):	IR006P01UM Full-time 12 Months
Course Title:	Master of Research in International Relations
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Research International Relations Postgraduate Diploma International Relations Postgraduate Certificate International Relations University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit
Language of Study:	English
Date of DAG approval:	20/Jan/2025
Last Review:	
Course Specification valid from:	2024/5
Course Specification valid to:	2029/0

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	ANNA KUTELEVA
Head of Department:	Dr David Hussey

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

Applicants should have or be about to complete: - A recognised undergraduate or postgraduate degree (or equivalent qualification with min 2:2) in a relevant subject from an accredited college, institution or university. Or - If the applicant does not hold a recognised degree or hold an ordinary degree, they should have at least three years of relevant work experience English language If English isn’t the applicant’s first language, they will need to provide evidence of English language ability. We accept: - IELTS (Academic) at 6.5 overall with no individual component below 6.0 - Pearson PTE (Academic) overall minimum 50 - Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CCAE & CPE) with minimum scores of 162 in Listening, Reading, writing and Speaking - TOEFL iBT overall minimum 60 - Trinity Integrated Skills in English (ISE) II: Merit or Distinction - Duolingo minimum overall score of 90 - IGCSE - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE - IGCSE - ENGLISH LANGUAGE - Degree - Taught and Assessed in English and completed within the last three years O-Level English Language or GCSE English Language Grade C or above (UK Exam Board) Malaysian SPM 1119 Grade 6 or above

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The MRes program stands out due to its strong emphasis on research skills development, making it a unique and attractive option for prospective students. This comprehensive training encompasses research methodologies, data analysis, and critical thinking, ensuring that graduates emerge with the ability to conduct independent, high-quality research. This focus on research skills equips students with a valuable asset that is highly sought after by employers and academia alike. One of the defining aspects of the MRes program is its commitment to hands-on research projects or dissertations. These projects provide students with the opportunity to make original contributions to their field of study, showcasing their research capabilities and helping them build a strong portfolio for future academic or professional endeavors. An interdisciplinary approach is another hallmark of the MRes program, allowing students to explore multiple fields and perspectives. This well-rounded education prepares graduates to address complex, real-world problems that often require expertise from various disciplines, making them adaptable and effective researchers. Furthermore, the program's flexibility caters to a diverse range of students, including working professionals and international learners. This adaptability ensures that students can pursue their academic and career goals while accommodating their individual circumstances. The MRes program will provide access to state-of-the-art research facilities, databases, and collaboration opportunities. These resources underline the program's commitment to providing students with the best tools and support for their research journey, enabling them to thrive in their studies. Faculty expertise is a crucial asset of the MRes program. The experienced and accomplished faculty members are dedicated to mentoring and guiding students throughout their research endeavours, offering valuable insights and support along the way. Additionally, the program's relevance to various industries, government agencies, and non-profit organisations is a key selling point. Graduates acquire skills and knowledge that are highly sought after in the job market, positioning them as valuable assets capable of making an immediate impact in their chosen field. The MRes program's global perspective is attractive to international students, offering opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration and networking. This international outlook not only enriches the educational experience but also opens doors to global career opportunities.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The educational aims of the MRes are multifaceted and designed to provide students with a

comprehensive and enriching academic experience. First and foremost, the program aims to foster a deep understanding of advanced research methodologies, equipping students with the skills to plan, execute, and communicate their research effectively. It encourages critical thinking and independent inquiry, enabling students to tackle complex problems with creativity and rigor. Additionally, the program seeks to promote interdisciplinary collaboration, facilitating the exploration of diverse academic fields and perspectives. Furthermore, it aims to cultivate a global mindset, encouraging students to engage with international research communities and embrace cross-cultural perspectives. Ultimately, the MRes is committed to producing graduates who are well-prepared to excel in their chosen careers, whether in academia, industry, government, or the non-profit sector, and who are capable of contributing valuable insights and innovations to their respective fields of expertise.

Intakes:

September

January

May

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
2024/5	Overseas	Full Time	£15950.00
2024/5	H	Full Time	£9088.00
2025/6	Overseas	Full Time	£19500.00
2025/6	H	Full Time	£8815.00
2026/7	Overseas	Full Time	£22000.00
2026/7	H	Full Time	£

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

January (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7IR001	International Relations theories, concepts and debates	30	INYR	Core
7IR002	Research Design and Practice	30	INYR	Core
7IR007	MRes Project / Dissertation	120	CRYRA	Core

May (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7IR001	International Relations theories, concepts and debates	30	CRYRA	Core
7IR002	Research Design and Practice	30	CRYRA	Core

May (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7IR007	MRes Project / Dissertation	120	INYR	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7IR001	International Relations theories, concepts and debates	30	INYR	Core
7IR002	Research Design and Practice	30	INYR	Core
7IR007	MRes Project / Dissertation	120	CRYRA	Core

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:

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education Qualifications and Credit Frameworks Subject Benchmark Statements University Policies and Regulations Equality Act (2010)

Overview of Assessment:

Learning Outcomes	Modules

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGCERT01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights in the area of International Relations to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
PGCERT02 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR002 Research Design and Practice 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
PGCERT03 Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
PGCERT04	
PGCERT05	
PGCERT06	
PGDIP01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights in the area of International Relations to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
PGDIP02 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.	7IR002 Research Design and Practice 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
PGDIP03 Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
PGDIP04 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: • the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility • decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations • the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
PGDIP05	
PGDIP06	
MA01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights in the area of International Relations to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
MA02 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR002 Research Design and Practice 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
MA03 Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation

Learning Outcomes	Modules
MA04 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: • the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility • decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations • the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.	7IR001 International Relations theories, concepts and debates 7IR007 MRes Project / Dissertation
MA05 Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	7IR002 Research Design and Practice
MA06 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.	7IR002 Research Design and Practice

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

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

The course will use a range of formative and summative assessment including: Quizes Online discussions Essays Policy briefs Case Studies Reflective accounts Independent research project Each module will give the opportunity for students to receive feedback on any formative work to allow them to incorporate this into their summative assessments.

Further Information for Student:

General University support: The University Library is the key source of academic information for students. The Library provides access to a wide range of online information sources, including e-books, e-journals and subject databases as well as printed material. Our online Library chat service, Library Assist is available 24/7. The University Library also provides students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. This support is available online and on campus. A range of online skills material is also available at Skills for Learning.

Currency:

Personalisation Opportunities:

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

Early-Career Professionals: individuals who have recently completed their undergraduate degree and are looking to further their education to gain a competitive edge in the job market. An MRes program provides essential skills and in-depth knowledge. These skills enhance their qualifications and make them more appealing to prospective employers. Masters students can demonstrate their ability to conduct rigorous research, analyse data effectively, and contribute to evidence-based decision-making, setting them apart from their peers and facilitating career advancement. Experienced professionals seeking career advancement or transitioning into management roles can benefit significantly from an MRes program. It equips them with advanced research and analytical skills, allowing them to excel in

their current roles by making data-driven decisions and problem-solving. Moreover, an MRes can open doors to leadership positions, as employers often value professionals with strong research capabilities for managerial roles. Career Changers: Individuals from diverse backgrounds looking to transition into new fields find that an MRes program offers a structured pathway to acquire the research skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career change. The program equips them with a solid foundation in research methodologies, enabling them to bridge the gap between their previous experience and their desired field. This adaptability makes them attractive candidates for employers in industries that value analytical thinking and data-driven insights. International Students: For international students seeking to study abroad or gain a global perspective, an MRes program provides a valuable opportunity to immerse themselves in a foreign educational environment. It exposes them to diverse perspectives and research practices, fostering a global mindset. Additionally, the skills acquired in an MRes program are highly transferable, making graduates more competitive in the global job market. High-Achieving Students: High-achieving students who are academically inclined and motivated to excel in their studies benefit from the intellectual rigor and research focus of an MRes program. These programs challenge their analytical and critical thinking abilities, allowing them to reach their full academic potential. Furthermore, excelling in an MRes program can open doors to prestigious doctoral programs or research-intensive careers, enabling them to make significant contributions to their chosen fields.

