

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MA International Relations
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MA International Relations
Named Exit Awards	PgD International Relations PgC International Relations
Entry Requirements ⁴	An undergraduate degree with a minimum of 2:2 classification, or sufficient professional experience.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MA International Relations course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The MA International Relations aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills needed in the field of international relations, in a range of employment settings. It explores the theories, practices and priorities of greatest relevance to the profession of international relations today. It addresses not only the most pressing issues, but those on the cutting edge of contemporary agendas: environment, health, populism and ideology, race and international security.

Your career development drives our programme. The MA aims to develop the skills needed by successful international relations professionals. You will learn how to use the intelligence cycle, how to analyse and disseminate research products, and how to develop and pursue a research agenda that generates subject matter expertise. You will have the opportunity to conduct an independent project marking the culmination of your studies and making a substantial, unique contribution to knowledge.

Moreover, a work placement module will offer a unique opportunity to apply your learning, and reflect on your career development, in the practitioner environment.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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The combination of applied theory and contemporary policy casework, strengthened by a focus on skills growth, will help you grow as a postgraduate student and as a professional in this diverse and dynamic field of work.

Course Aims

- Enhance your knowledge, skills, and career progression in the broad field of international relations
- Promote and develop robust advanced professional analysis with a normative and ethical awareness
- Develop practical skills such as identifying courses of action to add value to decision making in public and private contexts alongside intelligence and data analysis

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MA International Relations course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Show a deep and systematic knowledge of key contemporary aspects of international relations such as security, diplomacy and international law
2. Apply advanced knowledge based on critical awareness of contemporary issues in international relations to decision making contexts for state and non-state actors
3. Systematically analyse and evaluate evidence using the conceptual frameworks and theoretical approaches of international relations
4. Demonstrate self-direction and initiative in the critical engagement with relevant international issues using advanced methods of research and analysis.
5. Demonstrate self-direction and initiative in tackling and solving problems through the independent design, production and communication of a research project that shows advanced use of appropriate research methods for a range of international relations issues
6. Research and present complex arguments orally and in writing on issues showing sound reasoning where there is ambiguity.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / Competency Frameworks:

- [Characteristics Statement for Master's Degrees](#)
- [2023 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations](#)
- [European Higher Education Area](#)

Course Structure

The MA International Relations comprises modules at level 7.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	Applied International Relations Theory	30	M
	Intelligence and International Security	30	M
	Global Health Security	30	O
	Ideology and Populism	30	O
	International Criminal Justice Systems	30	O
	Global Environmental Security	30	O
	Global Migration and Ethnicity	30	O
	Independent Project A: Dissertation or Independent Project B: Placement	60	M

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends both on student demand and the availability of specialist staff.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded an MA International Relations. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD International Relations on successful completion of 120 credits including Applied International Relations Theory and Intelligence and International Security, or a PgC International Relations on successful completion of 60 credits including Applied International Relations Theory and Intelligence and International Security.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk. Students studying full-time on MA International Relations are likely to have approximately 6 contact hours across one to two days per week. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures and seminars, and students will have the opportunity to take a work placement module towards the end of the academic year. Students will be expected to find their own placement and undertake approximately 140 placement hours. Students will normally be expected to undertake 37 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be majority coursework (including case studies, policy briefs, presentations, podcast, reports, group work, portfolio, and research project), and some practical assessments.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

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Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and research active academics whose work falls within the broad field of politics, international relations and international law. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking MA International Relations will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,990 per year
Part-time UK	£1,665 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£16,020 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,670 per 30 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).