Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2013-14

Programme Title	Double Masters in ***Governance and International Politics***
UCAS/JACS Code	L240, L250
School/Subject Area	LSS: Politics and International Relations (PIR) ASG
Final Award	Aston: MA in Governance and International Politics
Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits), Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits) (These awards apply only to the Aston part of the Double Masters)
Mode(s) of Study	Full-time
Normal Length of Programme	2 years (24 months). First year at Aston, second year at Bamberg.
Total Credits	Aston MA: 180 credits (90 ECTS)
Programme Accredited By	---
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	1st March 2012, format change August 2013

Educational Aims of the Programme	• To provide students with an exceptional opportunity to pursue a Double Masters giving them an understanding of issues in governance and international politics that is enhanced and enriched by the mix of both British and German perspectives • To provide students with an international study and learning experience that will allow them to develop a broad foundation of academic knowledge, insights and skills that will prepare them for a range of career opportunities and further study • To prepare students for a senior-level career relating to the understanding and practice of governance and international politics, whether in the public or private sector • To combine a broad-based knowledge of international politics with an understanding of issues and debates in contemporary global and political governance, and foster students' own critical analysis of competing scholarly approaches to the study of issues in governance and international politics • To provide students with an excellent, international learning experience that draws on the research and direct professional experience of academic staff from both Aston University and the Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg. • To produce highly qualified students with expert knowledge and high-level skills in critical analysis and independent research, who aspire to leadership positions in international careers • To enhance life-long learning skills, transferable skills and personal development, enabling students to work with self-direction and contribute to their chosen career calling and society at large • To produce internationally and inter-culturally competent graduates

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	*Bologna Agreement* [European Higher education Area: Joint Declaration of the European Ministers of Education convened in …], 1999 QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 (2011) ESRC, *Postgraduate Training Guidelines*, 2009 ESRC – PSA – BISA, *International Benchmarking Review of UK Politics and International Studies*, 2007 Aston University, *Learning & Teaching Strategy 2012-2020*

TAUGHT STAGE						
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
International Relations Theory	20	7	LPM006	Core	N	N
Globalisation, Regionalism and Global Governance	20	7	LPM026	Core	N	N
Choice of options totalling 80 Aston credits.						
International Relations and the Global Order	20	7	LPM016	Option	Y	N
Transatlantic Relations in Historical Perspective: The US and Europe	20	7	LPM029	Option	Y	N
Germany and the World	20	7	LPM030	Option	Y	N
Europe's Regions and their Governance	20	7	LPM013	Option	Y	N
When is a Nation? Nationalism and Identity	20	7	LPM032	Option	Y	N
International Security	20	7	LPM034	Option	Y	N
Cities and Regions in the Global Economy	20	7	LPM035	Option	Y	N
Partisan Politics in Europe	20	7	LPM019	Option	Y	N
Asia-Europe Relations: Between Interregionalism and Bilateralism	20	7	LPM014	Option	Y	N
Research Methods	40	7	LPM003	Option	Y	N
International Ethics and Literature	20	7	LPM027	Option	Y	N
The EU and its Neighbours	20	7	LPM028	Option	Y	N
Leaders and Leadership in a European and Global Context	20	7	LPM011	Option	Y	N
International Migration: Dynamics, Challenges and Dilemmas	20	7	LPM012	Option	Y	N
US Foreign Policy in the Cold War	20	7	LPM031	Option	Y	N
Religion and Politics	20	7	LPM015	Option	Y	N
Security and Defence in Europe	20	7	LPM022	Option	Y	N
International Political Communication	20	7	LPM023	Option	Y	N
Comparative and International Political Economy	20	7	LPM036	Option	Y	N
Language Module (10 credits per term)	20		as appropriate	Option	Y	N
TOTAL	180					

DISSERTATION STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Dissertation	60	7	LRM005	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	60					

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. Knowledge and Understanding			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	The theoretical and practical perspectives on the relationship between international relations and global and political governance	Classes comprising lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions Guided study, usually based on a module handbook with thematic reading lists Individual research, with guidance from the module leader, an academic with research expertise in the field Student presentations Study skills workshop for dissertation preparation	Essays Dissertation Task-focused continuous assessment, in certain modules Oral presentations; discussions; class tests; two-hour exams
2	The social and political understanding of globalisation and transnational actors		
3	Key issues and case studies in understanding the activities and influence of transnational actors		
4	The utilisation of research methods and language expertise in the field of international relations.		

B. **Intellectual Skills**			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Select, gather and use with ease relevant primary source material relating to the fields of international relations and global and political governance, including notably official documents and statistics	Classes comprising lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions Guided study, usually based on a module handbook with thematic reading lists Individual research with guidance from the module leader, an academic with research expertise in the field Student presentations Study skills workshop for dissertation preparation	Essays Dissertation Task-focussed continuous assessment in certain modules Oral presentations; discussions; class tests; two-hour exams
2	Apply social-science research methods, including quantitative ones, for the analysis of international relations and global and political governance		
3	Identify, analyse and formulate appropriate policies for the global and political governance, from both political and economic perspectives at national and supranational levels		
4	Identify, analyse and formulate appropriate policies in respect of global decision-making processes		
5	Research in depth contemporary international relations and global and political governance		

	C. **Professional Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Deploy a broadly based expertise, whether in private or public sector employment, in dealing with practical issues and problems, relating to the fields of international relations and global and political governance	Classes comprising lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions Guided study, usually based on a module handbook with thematic reading lists Individual research, with guidance from the module leader, an academic with research expertise in the field, with a view to students acquiring key transferrable skills in independent working and time-management Student presentations Study skills workshop for dissertation preparation	Essays Dissertation Task-focussed continuous assessment in certain modules Oral presentations; discussions; class tests; two-hour exams
2	Deploy a specialist expertise, whether in private or public sector employment, in handling decisions, regulations and directives issued by international organisations		
3	To be able to make judgements regarding the suitability of different policy and implementation strategies to addressing current social and political issues		
4	Read and analyse material produced by state actors and supranational organisations		

	D. Transferable Skills		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	High-quality writing skills	Classes comprising lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions Other guided study Individual research, supported by academic member of staff Study skills workshop for dissertation preparation	Essays Dissertation Task-focussed continuous assessment Oral presentations; discussions; class tests; two-hour exams
2	Quantitative social-science technique skills		
3	Policy-oriented problem solving skills		
4	Multi-purpose research skills		

Entry Requirements	Recruitment through Aston: Normally, at least a good 2.1 honours classification in a degree taken in an appropriate subject at a British or Irish university, or an equivalent qualification on the completion of appropriate tertiary-level studies elsewhere. Recruitment through Bamberg: The *Hauptstudium* must have been completed at a German university (equivalent to BA level). The admissions procedure would be managed jointly by both institutions in the sense that each party must give its approval to the other party's recommendation of a place to a prospective student. For the Aston component of the Double Masters, candidates whose first language is not English must satisfy one of the following minimal requirements: • An English language score of 6.5 in IELTS (with a minimum of Band 7 in Writing and Band 6 in Speaking, Reading and Listening) or • A TOFEL score of 105 with 25 minimum in Writing and Speaking and 23 minimum in Reading and Listening) or • Pearson Academic results of minimum 68 in Writing and Speaking and minimum 61 in Listening and Reading or • Evidence that their undergraduate degree was taught mainly or entirely in English No knowledge of the German language is required to complete this Double Masters programme, as modules are taught in English at both Aston and Bamberg that will allow students to achieve the required number of credits. A range of elective options are available at both institutions[1].

[1] It is, however, possible, to take modules in German language during the second year of this Double Masters programme. For the Bamberg component of the Double Masters, all students transferring from Aston whose first language is not German and wishing to study any modules through the German language, would be expected to have acquired a knowledge of German that is at the level of the DSH exam – the Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang. This is the required German language entry requirement demanded by Bamberg University and any students wishing to pursue this option would be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required levels of this examination to Bamberg University.

Programme Regulations	*Attendance requirements:* Full attendance at Aston during the first academic year. *Criteria for Progression to Dissertation:* Aston: Passes in all taught modules (120 credits) *Dissertation/Project Requirements:* YEAR 1) 15,000 words. Subject must lie in the field of contemporary international politics or governance. It is proposed that normally a Bamberg academic be invited to be second marker. All dissertations are sent to Aston University's External Examiner.

Further Information	On successful completion of the first year of study, students may graduate at the Aston degree ceremony in the March of the year following submission of the final dissertation. The degree conferred at this ceremony will note that this qualification forms part of the Double MA in Governance and International Politics offered by Aston University in partnership with the Otto Friedrich Universität, Bamberg, Germany. Each partner institution will grant its own award. After successful completion of the first year of study, students who have completed the first element of the Double MA are able to graduate with a single MA in Governance and International Politics. Please note that an indicative list of modules for the second year of study is annexed to this Programme Specification. All students will be required to take part in a 2-day dissertation skills workshop prior to commencing their dissertation writing. This workshop will train the students in advanced study skills, introduce the research design process, cover ethical and moral considerations, and offer training in both qualitative and quantitative research skills through activity-centred learning exercises. This workshop will be team taught by PIR staff.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.

ANNEX – INDICATIVE LIST OF MODULES FOR THE SECOND YEAR OF STUDY ON THIS PROGRAMME. DELIVERED AT BAMBERG UNIVERSITY.

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Year II**				
Module Title	Credits (ECTS)	Aston Equivalent Teaching Level	Module Code	Core/ Option
Individual research project in politics or international relations[2]	10	7	Bamberg Module	Core
Sub-total	***10***			
Choice of 2 core modules from the departmental thematic areas Comparative Politics, International Relations and International Political Economy				
Social Change and International Comparison: Social Structure and Rational Choice Theory	5	7	Bamberg Module	Core/option
Advanced Topics of Dynamic Analyses of Social Structural Analyses	5	7	Bamberg Module	Core/option
Changing Education, Family and Employment: Germany in International Comparison	5	7	Bamberg Module	Core/option
Sub-total	***10***			
Choice of 5 seminars				
Collective Action in Representative Democracies: Political Parties, Interest Groups and Social Movements	8	7	Bamberg module	Option
Analysis of Political institutions	8	7	Bamberg Module	Option
Themes in International Relations	8	7	Bamberg Module	Option
Collective Action in Representative Democracies: Political Parties, Interest Groups and Social Movements	8	7	Bamberg module	Option
Political Parties and Interest Intermediation	8	7	Bamberg Module	Option
Political Parties and Party Systems in Advanced Industrial Democracies	8	7	Bamberg Module	Option
Democratic Representation in Comparative Perspective	8	7	Bamberg Module	Option
Determinants of Public Policy in Western Democracies	8	7	Bamberg Module	Option
Sub-total	***40***			
TOTAL	**60 ECTS**			

[2] Individual research project in politics or international relations. To be produced in either English or German language. Subject must lie in the area of contemporary international politics or governance and will most likely build on the research presented during the first year dissertation at Aston. Normally, an Aston academic will be invited to act as the second marker.