



Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2013-14

Programme Title	Joint Masters in Multilevel Governance and International Relations (<i>with Integrated Professional Training</i>)
UCAS/JACS Code	L240 L250
School/Subject Area	LSS: Politics and International Relations (PIR)
Final Award	MA (Joint Masters)
Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits), Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits).
Mode(s) of Study	Full-time
Normal Length of Programme	1 year (12 months)
Total Credits	180 Aston credits
Programme Accredited By	---
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	March 2012, format change August 2013, revised October 2013

<p>Educational Aims of the Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide students with an exceptional opportunity to pursue a Joint Masters giving them an understanding of Multilevel Governance and International Relations that is enhanced and enriched by the mix of both British and French perspectives • To give students substantial professional work experience in an area of Multilevel Governance or International Relations, enabling them to reflect critically upon practice, and to otherwise draw full advantage from the experience • 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 International Relations and Multilevel Governance, whether in the public or private sector • 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 Sciences-Po Rennes. • To produce highly qualified students with expert knowledge and high-level skills in critical analysis and independent research, who aspire to leadership positions in an international career • To enhance life-long learning skills, transferable skills and personal development to enable 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
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<p>Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes</p>	<p><i>Bologna Agreement</i> [European Higher education Area: Joint Declaration of the European Ministers of Education], 1999 UK Quality Code Part A.1 (2011) ESRC, <i>Postgraduate Training Guidelines</i>, 2009 ESRC – PSA – BISA, <i>International Benchmarking Review of UK Politics and International Studies</i>, 2007 Aston University, <i>Learning & Teaching Strategy 2012-2020</i></p>
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TAUGHT STAGE**Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits
Part I Semester 1 (Aston)**

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-Requisite(s) Y/N
International Relations and the Global Order	20	7	LPM016	Core	N	N
Choose one of the following optional modules:						
Globalisation, Regionalism and Global Governance	20	7	LPM026	Option	N	N
International Relations Theory	20	7	LPM006	Option	Y	N
Choose one further optional module:						
Transatlantic Relations in Historical Perspective: The US and Europe	20	7	LPM029	Option	Y	N
Europe's Regions and their Governance	20	7	LPM013	Option	Y	N
International Security	20	7	LPM034	Option	Y	N
Concepts and strategies for qualitative social science	20	7	LPM038	Option	Y	N
Religion and Politics	20	7	LPM015	Option	Y	N
EU Law and Policy-Making	20	7	LPM037	Option	Y	N
The EU: A Web of Institutions	20	7	LPM007	Option	Y	N
The EU and East Asia – Changing Dynamics in Interregional Relations	20	7	LPM014	Option	Y	N
TOTAL	60 Aston Credits					

TAUGHT STAGE**Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits
Part II Semester 2 (Rennes)**

Module Title	Credits (Aston equiv.)	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-Requisite(s) Y/N
Cohesion économique, sociale et territoriale (Economic, social and territorial cohesion)	30	7	LPM301	Core	Y	N
Les Migrations dans un contexte global (Migrations in the Global Context)	15	7	LPM302	Core	Y	N
De la politique étrangère à la para diplomatie (From foreign policy to paradiplomacy)	15	7	LPM303	Core	Y	N
<i>20 hours French Language Training in first 2 weeks in January in Rennes (no credits attached)</i>	0	n/a	n/a (Rennes)	Option	n/a	n/a
Total	60					

DISSERTATION STAGE**Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits
Part III Semester 3 (Rennes) (Placement) (May-August)**

Module Title	Credits (Aston equiv.)	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-Requisite(s) Y/N
Dissertation module (rapport de stage)	60	7	LPM304	Core	N	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 governance	Lectures and seminars Guided study, usually based on a module handbook with thematic reading lists	Essays Continual assessment Written examinations
2	The social and political understanding of globalisation and transnational actors	Individual research with guidance from the module leader, an academic with research expertise in the field	Dissertation module (rapport de stage)
3	Key issues and case studies in understanding the activities and influence of transnational actors	Mentored work placement with guidance both from the Rennes placement team and from a dedicated workplace mentor	
4	The utilisation of research methods and language expertise in the field of international relations.	Student presentations	

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 governance, multilevel governance, official documents and statistics	Lectures and seminars 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	Essays Continual assessment Written examinations Student presentations Dissertation module (rapport de stage)
2	Apply social-science research methods, including quantitative ones, for the analysis of international relations and multilevel governance	Mentored work placement with guidance both from the Rennes placement team and from a dedicated workplace mentor	
3	Identify, analyze and formulate appropriate policies for the global governance, from both political and economic perspectives at national and supranational levels	Student presentations	
4	Identify, analyze and formulate appropriate policies in respect of global decision-making processes		
5	Research in depth contemporary international relations and multilevel governance in a European and global context		

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 multilevel governance	Lectures and seminars 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 professional skills in independent working and time-management	Essays Continual assessment Written examinations Feedback from placement mentors Dissertation module (rapport de stage)
2	Deploy a specialist expertise, whether in private or public sector employment, in handling decisions, regulations and directives issued by international organisations	Crucially for professional skills is the mentored work placement with guidance both from the Rennes placement team and from a dedicated workplace mentor	
3	To be able to make judgements regarding the suitability of different policy and implementation strategies to addressing current social and political issues	Student presentations	
4	Read and analyse material produced by state actors and supranational organisations		
5	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 multilevel governance in a European and global context		

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	Lectures and seminars	Essays
2	Qualitative social-science technique skills	Guided study, usually based on a module handbook with thematic reading lists	Written examinations
3	Policy-oriented problem solving skills		
4	Multi-purpose research skills	Individual research with guidance from the module leader, an academic with research expertise in the field, with a view to students acquiring key transferable skills in independent working and time-management	Dissertation module (rapport de stage)
		Crucially for the development of transferable skills is the mentored work placement with guidance both from the Rennes placement team and from a dedicated workplace mentor	
		Student presentations	

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. French at A-level Grade C (or equivalent) is required.

Recruitment through Rennes:

Normally, students who qualify for entry to the fourth year of the five-year diploma (Masters entry point).

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 Joint MA, candidates whose first language is not English must satisfy one of the following minimal requirements:

- An IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of Band 7 in Writing and Band 6 in Speaking, Reading and Listening or TOEFL 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.

Programme
Regulations

Attendance requirements:

Students are required to attend all lectures and seminars. Students are also required to write a final rapport de stage (placement report) and viva.

Dissertation Requirements:

All students are required to write a dissertation of 15,000 words following on from their placement. In line with best practice for collaborative provision, it is proposed that Rennes or Aston academics be invited to act as second markers/examiners as required (Rennes to administer).

Industrial/Professional Training:

The *stage* (internship or placement in Aston terminology) runs normally for 3-4 months after the second term (in Rennes). It is organized in the framework of a *convention de stage*, to which the student, Sciences Po Rennes and Aston are all party. The placements are managed by Sciences Po Rennes. The list of placements proposed to students is approved beforehand by Aston. Each placement student has an academic 'mentor' in Rennes and a placement mentor present in the workplace where the placement is to be carried out.

Criteria for Progression to Dissertation module:

Achieve credits in all taught modules (120 Aston equivalent credits)

Further Information	Not applicable.
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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.