

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA Security Studies
2	BCU Course Code	PT1143
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	

6	Course Description
	<p>Looking for a security studies Master's in Birmingham? Our MA Security Studies is open to graduates from all subjects.</p> <p>The subject of security has considerable contemporary relevance, both nationally and internationally. A long and diverse list of issues have been characterised as security threats from warfare to global warming.</p> <p>On this Masters you will consider events such as these across a range of different perspectives discussing their implications for security at the international, national and local levels as well as their relevance to different actors such as the state and the individual.</p> <p>For example, the ongoing Syrian civil war and the breakdown of the Syrian state may represent a security risk for the UK by giving groups likes ISIS the space to operate and potentially attack the West. However, if we alter our focus we quickly become aware of a range of different insecurities felt by civilians displaced from their homes and struggling to survive as a result of the conflict.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>The MA Security Studies course takes a detailed and critical approach to the study of security, incorporating all of these different perspectives within a contemporary and international context. On this course, you will get a mix of the traditional focuses of the discipline such as conflict between states and theories of international relations, new security challenges such as cybersecurity and an opportunity to reflect upon what security is, who or what it is for and the impacts of practicing security.</p> <p>If you opt to undertake this course, you will get the opportunity to study this diverse subject with academics who have an equally diverse range of research informed expertise, including war and modern conflict, terrorism and counterterrorism, cybersecurity, European foreign affairs, and intelligence and surveillance.</p> <p>Alongside this, you will receive dedicated research training and practice throughout the degree that will prepare you for the dissertation as well as develop essential transferable skills that will allow for you to stand out in the job market as well as providing you with the necessary tools should you wish to continue within academia.</p>

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Arts Security Studies	7	180
	Master of Arts Security Studies with Professional Placement	7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate Security Studies	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma Security Studies	7	120
	Master of Arts Security Studies	7	180

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable.

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	1 year	PT1143
	Full Time Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months	PT1383

10	Entry Requirements
<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>	

11	Course Learning Outcomes
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Demonstrate the political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary-drawing and transforming practices.
2	Concepts, theories and methods used in the study of Security and International Relations to the analysis of political ideas, practices and issues in the international system.
3	Recognise different political systems; the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate; and the relationships between them.
4	Examine the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it.
5	Critique different interpretations of world political events and issues.
Intellectual Skills	
6	Organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources.
7	Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems.
8	Develop reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement.
9	Appraise, analyse and disseminate information.
Practical and Independent Learning Skills	
10	Reflect on learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback.
11	Manage learning self-critically.
12	Progress through the degree course to become mature, independent learners who can demonstrate initiative, self-organisation and time-management attributes.
13	Identify opportunities for continuous learning and development, leading to future continuous professional development, is particularly valued by employers.
Transferable Skills / Key Skills	
14	Utilise inter-cultural skills/global awareness, particularly in relation to employability.
15	Collaborate with others to achieve common goals through, for example, group work, group projects, and group presentations.
16	Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing.
17	Employ communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information and where appropriate, statistical or numerical information.
18	Implement and apply the above employability skills.

12	Course Requirements
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12a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 160 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">Module Code</th> <th style="width: 60%;">Module Name</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CRI7030</td> <td>Security and International Relations Theory</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7028</td> <td>Research Methods</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7036</td> <td>International Institutions and Security</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC7000</td> <td>Contemporary Security</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7029</td> <td>Researching Crime and Society</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7026</td> <td>Criminology / Security Studies Dissertation</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">Module Code</th> <th style="width: 60%;">Module Name</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CRI7037</td> <td>Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7031</td> <td>Security in the Digital Age</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7034</td> <td>Homicide and Organised Violent Crime</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI7032</td> <td>Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to qualify for the award of MA Security Studies with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">Module Code</th> <th style="width: 60%;">Module Name</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PLA6001</td> <td>Professional Placement</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	CRI7030	Security and International Relations Theory	20	CRI7028	Research Methods	20	CRI7036	International Institutions and Security	20	SOC7000	Contemporary Security	20	CRI7029	Researching Crime and Society	20	CRI7026	Criminology / Security Studies Dissertation	60	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	CRI7037	Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism	20	CRI7031	Security in the Digital Age	20	CRI7034	Homicide and Organised Violent Crime	20	CRI7032	Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLA6001	Professional Placement	60
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12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Full Time

Postgraduate Learner Course (e.g. Two weeks)			
Semester 1 (PG Cert Stage)	CRI7030: Security and International Relations Theory (20 credits)	CRI7028: Research Methods (20 credits)	CRI7036: International Institutions and Security (20 credits)
Semester 2 (PG Dip Stage)	SOC7000: Contemporary Security (20 credits)	Option Module (20 credits)	CRI7029: Researching Crime and Security (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Masters Stage)	CRI7026: Security Studies Dissertation (60 credits)		

Full Time with Professional Placement

Postgraduate Learner Course (e.g. Two weeks)			
Semester 1 (PG Cert Stage)	CRI7030: Security and International Relations Theory (20 credits)	CRI7028: Research Methods (20 credits)	CRI7036: International Institutions and Security (20 credits)
Semester 2 (PG Dip Stage)	SOC7000: Contemporary Security (20 credits)	Option Module (20 credits)	CRI7029: Researching Crime and Security (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Masters Stage)	CRI7026: Security Studies Dissertation (60 credits)		
Professional Placement	Professional Placement (60 credits)		

Part Time

Year 1	Semester 1	Security and International Relations Theory (20 Credits)	International Institutions and Security (20 Credits)
	Semester 2	Contemporary Security (20 Credits)	Option Module (20 Credits)
Year 2	Semester 1	Research Methods (20 Credits)	
	Semester 2	Researching Crime and Security (20 Credits)	
	Summer	Dissertation (60 Credits)	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

100% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	132
Directed Learning	145
Private Study	1323
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	71%
Exam	
In-Person	29%