

Course Specification

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

6	Course Description
	<p>The MA Security Studies programme builds on the success of the joint Criminology and Security Studies undergraduate degree by providing the opportunity for standalone postgraduate study in Security.</p> <p>The relevance of the course goes further than current affairs and academia into an ever-expanding security industry that offers a diverse range of different employment opportunities across both the private and public sector.</p> <p>Studying on the Security Studies MA course will allow you to learn about and actively research security from the unique perspective that the city and its history provides, as well providing close proximity to a range of fantastic employability opportunities.</p> <p>The Security Studies MA will provide you with knowledge and skills for a range of professions including jobs within intelligence, defence, the civil service, local government, finance, think tanks, human rights organisations and the third sector.</p> <p>In addition to this, with Birmingham being home to the largest police force outside of London (with which BCU has strong ties) you will be well placed for employment and research opportunities with West Midlands Police.</p> <p>The Security Studies MA offers a unique and exciting taught postgraduate experience that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A unique one day a week intensive delivery pattern that will benefit students in full-time work; the programme has been designed to be flexible and benefit professional practitioners and students undertaking voluntary placement work. • Contact with a staff team who are experts in their field and who are actively researching cutting edge issues relating to security. • A unique pedagogical approaches that seek to encourage students to learn practically and theoretically.

- Unique modules such as “Contemporary Security” that give students a topical and internationally relevant understating of security in the contemporary era.

Core values of the programme team

The Security Studies course team have a wealth of expertise and are committed to providing you with the knowledge and skills to develop a critical understanding of the contemporary world, current affairs and the geopolitical context.

The course team strive to provide the environment and support necessary to develop a broad and deep understanding of security as a discipline as well as the ‘real world’ ramifications of the concepts, ideas and theories studied.

The core values of the course team mean you will be actively engaged throughout and encouraged to be active partners in your own education, applying the skills and knowledge gained on the course to the contemporary world around you.

This can be from a local or national perspective, however, the team’s commitment to internationalism means encouraging a full appreciation and understanding of how particular issues are experienced and interpreted differently along spatial lines and in turn also encourage you to reflect on your own experience and perceptions of different “security issues”.

You will explore and analyse a range of contemporary security issues, different theories of security, central debates within the discipline and various specific case studies in a critical and applied manner.

The core values of the team are brought out on the course through the course specialisms outlined below.

Choosing a Professional Placement

The purpose of the Professional Placement is to improve your employability skills which will, through the placement experience, allow you to evidence your professional skills, attitudes and behaviours at the point of entry to the postgraduate job market.

Furthermore, by completing the Professional Placement, you will be able to develop and enhance your understanding of the professional work environment, relevant to your chosen field of study, and reflect critically on your own professional skills development within the workplace.

You will be responsible for finding and securing your own placement. The University, however, will draw on its extensive network of local, regional and national employers to support you in finding a suitable placement to complement your chosen area of study. You will also benefit from support sessions delivered by Careers+ as well as advice and guidance from your School. You will be able to start your Professional Placement at the end of the standard Master’s course, once you have successfully completed the competitive recruitment process and passed at least 120 credits of the 180 credits required for the final award.

The length of a standard full-time Master’s course ‘with Professional Placement’ will, therefore, be extended to 18 months and will consist of 240 credits, 60 of which will be awarded following completion of the placement.

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

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	Full time	City Centre	12 months
	Part time	City Centre	24 months
	Full time with Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months
			Code(s)
			PT1143

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

11	Course Aims
	<p>This programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a postgraduate course in Security Studies of the highest standard that is informed by contemporary, critical and international research. • Offer a detailed and critical overview of contemporary debates in Security Studies and frame these within contemporary criminological thought. • Provide you with the opportunity to engage in an optional module, which will allow you to focus in and develop your understanding of a chosen, specialised area. • Interrogate the social processes that influence the relationship between individuals, groups and institutions. • Provide an understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods in ways that are consistent with discipline expectations and that meet the expectations of the professional market. • Develop your intellectual, critical and analytical skills in the academic discipline of Security Studies. • Enhance and develop your transferable skills including proficiency in oral and written communications, the capacity for independent learning, project management, the ability to reflect on the ethical components of your work and the capacity to work cooperatively with others.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 180/240 credits on the MA you will be able to:</i>
1	Critically evaluate key topics and theories in Security Studies
2	Analyse appropriate applied research methods
3	Situate a range of contemporary issues in the discipline of Security Studies within their political and historical contexts and critically evaluate their position
4	Characterise the role, aims and effectiveness of various agencies within the global context of international relations and security
5	Classify the complex moral, legal, ethical, practical and theoretical arguments in Security Studies
6	Produce advanced, postgraduate level written and verbal communication skills
7	Identify appropriate research methodologies for dealing with complex problems
8	Work independently using your own initiative and effective time management.
9	Achieve a substantial empirical research project, systematic review or systematic case study, informed by wide current understandings in the subject.
10	Apply relevant work skills developed through engaging in a professional placement*.
	*This learning outcome is only applicable to the MA in Security Studies with Professional Placement.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits / the Postgraduate Certificate, students will be able to:</i>
1	Evaluate key topics and theories in Security Studies
2	Analyse applied research methods
3	Situate a range of contemporary issues in the discipline of Security Studies within their political and historical contexts and evaluate their position
	<i>Upon completion of 120 credits / the Postgraduate Diploma, students will be able to:</i>
4	Characterise the role, aims and effectiveness of various agencies within the global context of international relations and security
5	Classify the complex moral, legal, ethical, practical and theoretical arguments in Security Studies
6	Produce advanced, postgraduate level written and verbal communication skills
	<i>Upon completion of 180 credits / the Master's Degree, students will be able to:</i>
7	Identify appropriate methodologies for dealing with complex problems
8	Work independently using your own initiative and effective time management.
9	Achieve a substantial empirical research project, systematic review or systematic case study, informed by wide current understandings in the subject.
	<i>Upon completion of 240 credits / the Masters Degree with Professional Placements, students will be able to:</i>
10	Apply relevant work skills they have developed through engaging in a professional placement.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p><i>Teaching and Learning Strategy</i></p> <p>When enrolled on to this course you will engage with a range of teaching and learning strategies. The teaching and learning arrangements may vary across modules, depending on the subject matter being addressed and mode of assessment. Some of the teaching and learning activities that you may engage in include:</p> <p>Lectures Seminars Group Discussions</p>

Independent Learning (including reading and researching)
Online Activities (including quizzes, group discussion forums, online videos)

Assessment strategy

Whilst we do not assess you with exams, you will be required to complete a range of coursework assessments (e.g., essays, professional reports, pre-recorded video presentations, research proposals) and in-person assessments (e.g., individual and/or group poster presentations, individual and/or group PowerPoint presentations, debates). We offer opportunities throughout the academic year to receive informal feedback on draft assessments that enable you to develop your work prior to submission.

Feedback is therefore provided informally throughout modules. Individual feedback is also provided when assessments are returned to students. The focus of feedback is to help you develop your academic skills.

15

Course Requirements

15a

Level 7:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 160 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
CRI7030	Security & International Relations Theory	20
CRI7036	International Institutions and Security	20
CRI7029	Research Methods	20
CRI7029	Researching Crime and Security	20
SOC7000	Contemporary Security	20
CRI7026	Dissertation	60

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
CRI	Understanding Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	20
CRI	Homicide & Harm: Critical Understandings of Violence	20
CRI	Inside-Out	20
CRI	Green Criminology in an Age of Climate Breakdown	20
CRI	Contemporary Coercions: Norms, practices, and systems of control in society	20
CRI7037	Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism	20

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:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA6001	Professional Placement	60

15b Structure Diagram
Level 7

MA Security Studies (Full time)			
Semester 1 (PG Cert Stage)	Security & International Relations Theory (20 credits)	Research Methods (20 credits)	International Institutions and Security (20 credits)
Semester 2 (PG Dip Stage)	Contemporary Security (20 credits)	Optional Module Homicide & Harm: Critical Understandings of Violence Understanding Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Inside-Out Green Criminology in an Age of Climate Breakdown Contemporary Coercions: Norms, practices, and systems of control in society Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism (20 credits)	Research Crime and Society (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Masters Stage)	Security Studies Dissertation (60 credits)		

MA Security Studies (Part time)			
Year 1	Semester 1	Security & International Relations Theory (20 credits)	International Institutions and Security (20 credits)
	Semester 2	Contemporary Security (20 credits)	Optional Module Homicide & Harm: Critical Understandings of Violence Understanding Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Inside-Out Green Criminology in an Age of Climate Breakdown Contemporary Coercions: Norms, practices, and systems of control in society Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism (20 credits)
Year 2	Semester 1	Research Methods (20 credits)	

	Semester 2	Researching Crime (20 credits)
	Summer	Security Studies Dissertation (60 Credits)

MA Security Studies (Full time Professional Placement)			
Semester 1 (PG Cert Stage)	Security & International Relations Theory (20 credits)	Research Methods (20 credits)	International Institutions and Security (20 credits)
Semester 2 (PG Dip Stage)	Contemporary Security (20 credits)	Optional Module Homicide & Harm: Critical Understandings of Violence Understanding Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Inside-Out Green Criminology in an Age of Climate Breakdown Contemporary Coercions: Norms, practices, and systems of control in society Terrorism, Political Violence and Extremism (20 credits)	Research Crime and Society (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Masters Stage)	Security Studies Dissertation (60 credits)		
Professional Placement	Professional Placement (20 weeks) (60 credits)		

16 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.

Delete years where applicable.

Level 7

Workload

XX% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	162
Directed Learning	528
Private Study	1,110
Total Hours	1,800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	75%
Exam	0%
In-Person	25%