

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Politics of Conflicts, Rights & Justice			
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	On-campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Professional body accreditation (<i>if applicable</i>)	n/a			
Academic year this specification was created	2016/17			
Dates of any subsequent amendments				

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

1. Enabling graduate students to acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and aptitudes necessary to proceed to careers in cross-cultural and international professional contexts relating to human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations.
2. Providing learning opportunities to enable graduate students to acquire the interdisciplinary knowledge to undertake further advanced studies and research in the area of human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations.
3. Contributing to university objectives by providing high quality research training to an increasing number of postgraduate students and enhancing their key skills and employability.
4. Providing a qualification which fully meets the requirements of the Higher Qualifications Framework at Master's Level.

III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge
1. An in-depth critical understanding of the relation between human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice with conflict and peacebuilding before and during transitions in different historical periods
2. An advanced understanding of changes in the international pattern of war and peace and in normative responses to them
3. An advanced understanding of the inherently political nature of international human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations
4. A critical understanding of the different ways in which rights, compassion and justice are experienced in different domains by different social groups
5. A sound grounding in international and national policies aimed at advancing and deterring human rights, humanitarianism, and international and transitional justice
6. A solid understanding of the actions taken to further human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations by international NGOs, international organisations, social movements, and governments

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to attend all classes (lectures and seminars), study extensively on their own and prepare assessed as well as non-assessed work regularly. • Through core course lectures and seminars as well as through assessed work including group discussions. • Through teaching in core and optional courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, assessed coursework essays and a dissertation.

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop intellectual initiative and to analyse, evaluate and reflect critically on information and current research with regard to the core knowledge and understanding targets of the programme. 2. To view the development of human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations as an evolving and changing process. 3. To discriminate between competing social science theories of human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations and their concomitant methodologies. 4. Develop core knowledge and in-depth critical understanding of the targets of the programme as above 5. Learn and understand the rationale behind different policies targeting the use of normative mechanisms to prevent, mediate and repair communities during and after conflict. 6. Learn to conceptualise original arguments on human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations 7. Demonstrate an interest and confidence in thinking in inter-disciplinary ways, drawing insights questions and evidence from a variety of perspectives and approaches 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are fostered in all courses offered in the program where the information students receive needs to be assessed critically and conflicting interpretations arising from the same information discussed. • Students are encouraged not simply to summarise evidence and arguments but through application of critical questioning to develop their own assessments of the relative value of a range of arguments/sources of evidence. • Through the structure and content of the core course in conflict, rights and justice and other program and optional courses. • Students will prepare class presentations on topics selected from the core course and options reading lists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, assessed coursework essays and a dissertation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They also carry out individual, independent dissertation work, including refining a broad 'topic' into a narrower, manageable, and more precise research question/hypothesis. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize arguments lucidly, coherently, and concisely, presenting core analyses in clear form (verbally and as written material) 2. Develop effective presentation skills 3. Communicate effectively in writing 4. Participate and contribute productively in group discussions 5. Retrieve, select analyse and critically evaluate theoretical and empirical information from a variety of sources 6. Identify core differences in shifting approaches to the politics of human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations 7. Identify core differences in shifting approaches to social movements and how these relate to shifting realities for populations in affected countries 8. Develop initiative and capacity to work independently on theoretical or practical research questions/hypotheses in the light of knowledge and skills acquired during the course 9. Develop critical skills to the study and evaluation of different material, methodologies, and disciplinary perspectives 		10.
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through independent work for dissertations and preparation for class presentations. • Through work on own, departmental dissertation guidance notes and meetings, meetings with supervisor. • Through required regular readings for weekly seminar discussions. • Through demonstration in lectures, through discussion in seminars, through questions in exams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, assessed coursework essays and a dissertation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	
Having successfully completed the Programme, students should be able to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse, evaluate, and critically reflect on information received 2. Develop and present new ideas coherently and concisely, orally and in writing, extracting key elements from complex information 3. Develop research skills and ability to work independently 4. Identify and solve problems, selecting and applying competing theories and methodologies appropriately 5. Gather, organise, and deploy different theoretical and empirical material to form balanced judgements and to develop and support critical arguments 6. Engage in lateral thinking across different academic disciplines, types of arguments, evidence, and methodologies 7. Engage creatively, flexibly, and co-operatively with others in small groups through presentations, debates and discussions 8. Assess and evaluate own and other's work constructively 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through seminar presentations, discussions, group work and essays. • Through essays, project, and dissertation • Through group project work. • Through classroom participation in seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, assessed coursework essays and a dissertation.

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes
<p>Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional. As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars, and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.</p> <p>At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.</p> <p>More information can be found on individual module pages.</p>