

International relations

Essentials

Taught programmes

MA degrees

Global Political Economy
International Relations

MSc degree

Social Research Methods (for details, refer to page 14)

Research programmes

MPhil, PhD International Relations

Related programmes

MA in Conflict, Security and Development (p111)
MA in Geopolitics and Grand Strategy (p112)
MA in International Security (p112)

Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

MA

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree or equivalent qualification.

Relevant work and voluntary experience will be considered, particularly in cases where candidates fall short of the academic requirement. A degree in the social sciences or humanities does not constitute a strict requirement and applicants with degrees in other disciplines will be given due consideration. Relevant previous degrees include those in political science, economics, philosophy, law, history, geography and sociology. For the MA in Global Political Economy no prior knowledge of economics is required

MSc

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social science, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests and state how studying for the MSc will help develop those interests, possibly for further research

MPhil

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social science, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests

PhD

A Masters degree in international relations or a related discipline, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applications should be accompanied by a 2,000-word research outline indicating the nature, ambition and primary questions of the research project

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

Further information

International Relations,
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- International Relations at Sussex is well-established over four decades and includes many distinguished scholars among its past and present faculty.
- Sussex was ranked in the top 3 International Relations departments in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 95 per cent of our research was rated as internationally recognised, higher than any other UK department.
- We have regional expertise that covers Europe and North America, the Middle East, East Asia, South Asia and Latin America. Our research and teaching cover a wide range of themes in international relations; the global political economy; international security, war and peace studies; development studies; law, ethics and gender.
- The Department is located within the School of Global Studies, an interdisciplinary school that brings together anthropology, development studies, geography and international relations. The School also houses a number of interdisciplinary research centres.
- Faculty have undertaken consultancy and commissioned work in a range of fields, including human rights, development studies, and security. Many of our graduates find employment in these fields, within which we have very strong international networks.



Taught programmes

Options common to both MA programmes

This list of options is available to students on both MA programmes. Please note that not all of these options will necessarily be available in any given year. You may be allowed to take your second option from within other MA programmes at Sussex: for example, those in contemporary European studies, development studies, or social and political thought.

Spring term: you choose two from Complex Humanitarian Emergencies • East Asia the International Political Economy • Genocide in World Politics • Global Governance and Multinationality • Human Rights in International Relations • International Law in World Politics • International Relations in World History • Irregular Warfare • NGOs, Social Movements and Global Civil Society • Peace Processes and Post-Conflict Reconstruction • Religions, Cultures and Civilisations in International Relations • Rethinking Imperialism • Russian and Post-Soviet Foreign and Security Policy • The Ethics and Politics of Globalisation • The Global Politics of Disease • The Middle East in Global Order • The Political Economy of Development • The Political Economy of Global Finance • War, Violence and Society.

MA in Global Political Economy 1 year full time/2 years part time

Fundamental questions are being raised as to the ability of the global political economy to successfully cope with an ever-increasing number of challenges such as climate change, financial instability, food crises, energy, security, and the rise of new economic powers. This MA is uniquely placed to analyse the impact of these contemporary transformations.

You examine the historical emergence of the global political economy; contemporary transformations such as globalisation and environmental challenges; the changing nature of global governance; and the implications of the current economic crisis for the nature of the capitalist system and the global distribution of wealth and power.

Sussex is one of the leading UK centres for research in global political economy. Our Centre for Global Political Economy provides a unique forum for original interdisciplinary research on global politico-economic change. Visit www.sussex.ac.uk/cgpe

Career opportunities

The MA will be particularly relevant to you if you wish to pursue a career in international organisations, development agencies or NGOs, or in journalism or roles in the private sector that welcome or require knowledge of the global political and economic system. This programme also offers excellent background and training if you wish to pursue doctoral studies and/or an academic career. The Department is committed to provide help in identifying work-study placements.

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in government foreign, economics and trade ministries; international organisations (eg the UN); NGOs (eg Oxfam, CAFOD, Amnesty International, the Red Cross); international development (eg World Bank); international media or journalism; academia and research institutes.

Programme structure

Autumn term: Contemporary Theories in Global Political Economy • Global Political Economy.

Spring term: you take two options from the list of spring-term options offered on both MA programmes (refer to the list on page 109).

Summer term and vacation: you take Research Design and Method, which provides a forum to collaborate in developing your individual research project. You then undertake work on your dissertation.

Assessment

Contemporary Theories in Global Political Economy is assessed by unseen examinations. The Global Political Economy course is assessed by a 5,000-word term paper. Each spring-term option is generally assessed by a 5,000-word term paper. The Research Design and Method course is assessed by a 2,500-word research outline paper. You will also submit a dissertation of 10,000 words.

**MA in International Relations
1 year full time/2 years part time**

This MA examines a wide range of issues of contemporary relevance in global politics. More than any other, the contemporary era has thrust many of the core and emerging issues of international relations directly into our everyday lives, requiring us to reflect on them systematically. Taking the exciting and troubling times in which we live as its starting point, this degree emphasises a philosophical and historical orientation with a distinctive critical edge for which international relations at Sussex has an international reputation.

This programme brings together students from a wide range of educational, national, political and professional backgrounds. It is a theoretically grounded programme, covering issues of theory and history of international relations, as well as a wide range of issues of contemporary relevance in global politics and international order.

Career opportunities

This MA is intended both for students hoping to pursue postgraduate research in international relations and for those hoping to pursue, or who are seconded from, a professional career in international affairs. Our Department is committed to provide help in identifying work-study placements in these fields.

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in government foreign and defence ministries; international organisations (eg the UN); NGOs (eg Oxfam, CAFOD, Amnesty International, the Red Cross); international development (eg World Bank); international media or journalism; academia and research institutes.

Programme structure

Autumn term: Foundations of World Politics
• International Relations Theory.

Spring term: you take two options from the list of spring-term options offered on both MA programmes (refer to the list on page 109).

Summer term and vacation: you take Research Design and Method, which provides a forum to collaborate in developing your individual research project. You then undertake work on your dissertation.

Assessment

Foundations of World Politics is assessed by a 5,000-word term paper. International Relations Theory is assessed by an unseen examination.

Assessment of spring-term options is generally by a 5,000-word term paper. The Research Design and Method course is assessed by a 2,500-word research outline paper. You will also submit a dissertation of 10,000 words.

**MSc in Social Research Methods
1 year full time/2 years part time**

Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on page 14 for more information about this programme, including structure and assessment.

Academic activities

In addition to attending weekly lectures and seminars, you are encouraged to participate in the regular Department of International Relations research seminars and guest lectures. Visit www.sussex.ac.uk/ir/seminars

Specialist facilities

The University offers extensive computing facilities with a full range of data-processing and communications software. Office space is usually allocated to students taking research degrees. You will have full access to the University's main Library and its online collection, and to the British Library of Development Studies, at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), which is located on the Sussex campus.

Research programmes

We welcome enquiries from students wishing to undertake research in any areas of faculty interest. International relations faculty at Sussex also provide interdisciplinary doctoral supervision in subject areas such as contemporary European studies, development studies, and science and technology policy and management.

All research students are required to complete an appropriate programme of research methods training. This may involve enrolling on the MSc in Social Research Methods – a stand-alone Masters programme – before proceeding to a PhD. This is known as a 1+3 programme. Refer to pages 14-15 for more information.

Students who have already completed a programme of research methods training can apply for the basic, three-year doctoral programme leading to a PhD.

Coursework and supervision

Whether you start the three-year PhD or the 1+3 MSc/PhD programme, you will normally be required to complete some research methods training courses and possibly some specialist thematic courses drawn from the MA programmes.

You will be allocated two academic supervisors with whom you work for the duration of your research programme. These are allocated according to their regional and thematic expertise, to provide a complementary 'match' with your research.

Recent thesis titles

A new age of intervention: sovereignty under question

Feminism, social movements and the globalisation of democracy

Global responsibility and climate change: ethics, uncertainty and international relations

Career opportunities

Many of our graduates find employment in fields such as human rights, international development and security, within which we have very strong networks.

Faculty research interests

The Department houses the Centre for Global Political Economy and hosts the New Security Challenges lecture series. A number of faculty and students are members of the Justice and Violence Research Centre. Research interests are briefly described below. For more information, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/ir

Andreas Antoniadis Globalisation; hegemony. Author of *Producing Globalisation* (2009).

Shane Brighton International relations theory; terrorism and counterterrorism.

Sergio Catignani Middle East Security. Author of *Israeli Counter-Insurgency and the Intifadas* (2008).

Professor Stefan Elbe International security. Author of *Security and Global Health* (2010).

Kevin Gray Labour and globalisation.

Professor Beate Jahn Classical and contemporary political and international theory.

Zdenek Kavan Nationalism, democracy and citizenship in Eastern and Central Europe.

Samuel Knafo Global finance; international political economy; historical sociology.

Kamran Matin Politics of Iran; political Islam; international politics of revolution.

Professor Peter Newell Global environmental governance. Author of *Governing Climate Change* (2010).

Louiza Odysseos Global ethics.

Stephanie Ortmann International relations theory; state and identity.

Patricia Owens History and theory of warfare.

Fabio Petito Religion and international relations. Co-editor of *The Civilizational Dialogue and World Order* (2009).

Professor Kees van der Pijl Transnational classes.

Professor Justin Rosenberg International relations and international political economy; modernity.

Jan Selby Resource politics. Author of *The Global Politics of Oil* (forthcoming).

Ben Selwyn Globalisation and development; economic development in Brazil.

Professor Martin Shaw Global civil society.

Lisa Smirl Author of 'Building the Other, Constructing Ourselves' in *International Political Sociology* (2008).

Anna Stavrianakis NGOs and global civil society. Author of *Taking Aim at the Arms Trade* (2010).

Benno Teschke Marxism; historical sociology; critical theory and dialectic; international theory.

Professor Cynthia Weber Media and culture. Author of *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction* (2009).