



Durham
University

Government & International Affairs

Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13

World-class taught and research degrees to PhD

Ranked 7th

for Politics by *The Guardian University
League Tables 2012.*



50%
of our research is rated
as world-leading and
internationally excellent.
RAE 2008

Government & International Affairs

Durham University's School of Government and International Affairs combines a long tradition of expertise in a wide range of fields in politics, political theory, political economy, security and peace studies, faith and globalisation and international relations with a depth of specialisms in regional expertise – Europe, East Asia, the Middle East and wider Muslim world.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The School's place amongst the top UK departments for Politics and International Relations has been confirmed by the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) results in which 50% of our research rated in the top two categories: 'world leading' and 'internationally excellent'.

The School submitted work by every member of its academic staff to the RAE, with the results showing research excellence throughout the School. With a further 30% of research rated 'internationally recognised', 80% of the School's research output falls in the top three grades of the exercise.

Providing a unique environment for learning, training and research, the School has a truly international base with students from over 40 different countries studying on both our taught and research courses. The School prides itself on the support it provides for postgraduate students and has dedicated IT and study room facilities. Special collection library facilities are located within the main University Library, which is a short walk from the School.



TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

MA in Faith and Globalisation

This interdisciplinary programme is intended to provide rigorous, research-driven knowledge and understanding of the interrelations of faith/religion and globalisation. Starting from an agenda-setting module, students will be able to explore such interconnections deeper and across different approaches and topics, choosing modules from various departments in the humanities and social sciences. Political, economic, legal, and ethical issues that have emerged as religious actors become part of global processes, are addressed through questions of identity, freedom, rights, (economic and social) justice, peace, science and technology, sustainability, among others. Reflection is also stimulated on how knowledge and social practices construct the different actors, and how the normative claims of each party either allow for or refuse dialogical engagements.

Staff research areas:

- International Relations, Middle East, East Asia, Europe
- International Political Economy, Middle East, Asia and North Africa
- Islamic Economics, Finance and Management
- Islamic Studies
- British and German Politics
- Political Thought and International Relations
- German Foreign Policy
- Security Studies.

MSc in Arab World Studies

This programme is intended to provide rigorous, research-driven, interdisciplinary education and training. Students are able to develop skills and knowledge sufficient for the conduct of research in and on the Arab World to develop an understanding of generic training in research methods and methodologies to provide a foundation for subject specific training in research methods and methodologies. The programme also provides language instruction in the Arab language so that students are able to develop appropriate and sufficient competence to utilise the language in their subsequent research, or employment in the Arab-speaking world.

MA in International Relations

- MA in International Relations (East Asia)
- MA in International Relations (Europe)
- MA in International Relations (Middle East)

The International Relations programmes provide you with the systematic knowledge and intellectual tools to critically review developments in the theory and practice of international relations. They enable you to evaluate in a sophisticated and critical fashion concepts, theories and paradigms within the broad field of international relations, drawing lessons from empirical studies involving both quantitative and qualitative investigations.

Students are able to develop their ability to deploy research strategies and methods in an appropriately advanced fashion to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship. Each study route aims to provide advanced knowledge and understanding of the dynamics, including cultural and local political and ideological factors, which shape the contemporary international relations of the area.

The programmes also provide an opportunity for studying international relations and in comparative and historical perspective taking account of regional specific political and economic factors.

MSc in Defence, Development and Diplomacy

With conflicts becoming increasingly drawn-out, asymmetric wars of attrition, our understanding of conflict and conflict intervention is undergoing a seismic shift. Conflicts will be determined not by military victory, diplomacy or long-term development alone, but by securing populations through a comprehensive approach that sees to their political, and economic, as well as their security-related needs.

Their outcome will be determined by how well the different arms of government and civil society, both locally and internationally, can work together and how well they understand each others' perspectives.

This inter-disciplinary and custom-designed MA offers the unique opportunity to look at conflict, conflict intervention and post-conflict reconstruction through the lenses of defence, development and diplomacy.



The MA is designed for graduates with a career in government, the armed forces, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs or academia in mind, and for practitioners looking to enhance their practical skills while placing these within a broader theoretical perspective.

MA in Conflict Prevention, Sustainable Peace and Security

The MA will provide students with advanced knowledge of the complex and specialised areas of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, conflict transformation, conflict analysis, state stabilisation, peace processes, humanitarian intervention and peace building within the context of contemporary conflict and international humanitarian intervention. Integrated into the MA structure are opportunities to develop operational and vocational skills important for peace and conflict mediation and negotiation. This provides students with knowledge and skills that are helpful for current and future employment opportunities, thus being attractive to both graduates and mid-career practitioners. Whilst the academic and applied focus of the MA comes through a peace and conflict studies analytic lens, course material will also draw from traditional strategic and security studies, enabling cross-fertilisation between these different perspectives so that new paradigms in the fields of conflict, peace, security, defence, diplomacy, development and humanitarian intervention can be explored.

MA in Research Methods (International Relations)

This degree is offered in collaboration with other departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health and is designed to provide a strong all-round training in research methods allied to further specialisation within the field of politics and international relations/studies.

It is assumed that in taking this MA, you do so with the intention of proceeding to a PhD in Politics or International Relations. It has received official recognition from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and eligible candidates can apply for (ESRC) (1+3) studentships. The programme includes compulsory elements in a wide variety of techniques including statistics and quantitative methods, but contains less subject-specific content than the other MA courses.

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

- 2:1 or First at BA level
- We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on International Qualifications please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates whose first language is not English will normally be required to possess a recent English language test score of 7.0 in IELTS or 100 in the TOEFL IBT.

RESEARCH DEGREES

The following research degrees are currently offered:

- PhD in Government and International Affairs
- PhD in Politics
- PhD in Middle Eastern Studies
- PhD in Islamic Economics and Finance
- MPhil in Politics
- MPhil in Middle Eastern Studies
- MA in Politics
- MA in Middle Eastern Studies
- MA in Islamic Finance
- MSc in Islamic Finance.

MAIN RESEARCH AREAS

- Government
- International Relations
- International Political Economy
- Political Theory and Culture
- Political Economy of Islam and the Muslim World
- Contemporary East Asian Studies
- Human Rights
- Gulf Studies
- Faith and Globalisation
- (Critical) Security Studies
- Social Movement Theory
- Conflict Transformation and Peace Building
- Development and Conflict.

LINKS WITH RESEARCH INSTITUTES

The Department has excellent links with a range of research institutes including:

- Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan
- Gulf Research Centre
- Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- Institute of Hazard and Risk.

I was really attracted to join the programme as Durham is one of the best universities in the UK and the School has many acknowledged scholars in my field. The course has been very fruitful, and highlights issues in Islamic finance and banking and covers a wide variety of areas including risk management, product development and corporate governance. The programme offers students the opportunity to gain a comprehensive knowledge to develop skills to be experts in their field.

The environment is very supportive, the supervisors are helpful, and the programme is very famous and comprehensive. I've had the opportunity to present papers at international conferences, publish papers in journals, be a guest lecturer in France, as well as being able to informally lecture in the Department to some of my Masters and PhD colleagues. I am an economist in the Central Bank, and I'm hoping that the skills and knowledge I have mastered during my studies will allow me to provide an outstanding contribution. I strongly believe that after I graduate from Durham University my future career will be outstanding.

Rifki Ismal, Indonesia, PhD Islamic Finance & Banking.



RECENT THESIS TITLES

- "From Instrumental Rationality to Social Rationality: The Multi-level Governance of European Foreign Policy and the Construction of a Europeanised Identity"
- "Bilateral and Commercial Relations between China and Chile"
- "A Clash of Civilisations? Ideology and Culture in Iran-US Relations"
- "Trends in Qatar's Foreign Policy towards Arab Issues: Parameters, Challenges and Achievements 1995 to 2008"
- "Confidence as a route to Economic Development in Post-War Vietnam"
- "The Rogue State: A Case of North Korea"
- "This is not the truth: A Methodological Inquiry into the Classical Greek Origins of Political Realism"
- "Service, Quality and Financial Performance: an Empirical Study of Islamic Banks in the UAE"

- "The Role of Islam and Islamic Orders in Creating and sustaining the Community Identity of HUI Populations of Qinghai"
- "Exploring Extreme Right and Left Activism in Britain"
- "US Foreign Policy"
- "The Palestinian Islamic Jihad: Challenges and Prospects of an Armed Resistance Project"
- "The Theory of Human Rights".

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FACILITIES

As a research student working towards an MA, MPhil or PhD degree, you are especially well catered for within the School, with dedicated Research Support workshops and specialised research training opportunities offered.

Supervisors have generally light teaching loads enabling them to devote more time to research supervision. You are encouraged to feel part of a research community rather than working in isolation. Designated and networked research work space is available within the SGIA buildings. We have excellent completion rates, and many of our former research students hold senior academic and government positions around the world.

The research findings of PhD students often result in published output. You will have access to the excellent IT facilities of the Al-Qasimi building and all the specialist library collections in Durham. Language tuition is available as required and the School provides financial support for research students for printing and photocopying, as well as for conference attendance.





TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

- MPhil and MA: Honours degree 2:1 or First at BA level or equivalent
- PhD: Masters degree in an appropriate subject or its equivalent.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS total of 6.5 (with no component within that score lower than 6.0).

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

- Durham Doctoral Studentships
- ESRC Doctoral Training Centre Students (Politics and International Relations and Language Based Area Studies).

The University also has a range of funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Our students go on to a wide range of successful careers including civil service and other government agencies, UN/INGOs/CSOs, journalism, media, teaching, law, banking and finance, diplomatic services and risk analysis.

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit www.durham.ac.uk/sgia/postgraduate/employability

Name:
Lucy Abbott

Home Country:
UK

Postgraduate Course:
PhD Government and International Affairs

I first heard about the course during my Masters year at Durham University and was attracted to the course by its unique structure as it is run in conjunction with the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World. On account of my background in languages and international politics I was encouraged to apply.

One of the best things is the degree of diversity within my department. As a local student it can be difficult to gain new cultural experiences without having to travel abroad but the international aspect of the Department really helps overcome this.

The support from the Department has also been excellent. We are encouraged to feel part of the research community rather than working in isolation and there is an atmosphere of being able to share ideas and learn from each others' experiences.

The linguistic dimension of the course also enhances my employability and once I complete my studies I hope to gain an academic position, or possibly work in the public sector in the UK advising foreign policy.



Contact details

For further information on taught programmes or research degrees contact:

Barbara Farnworth
Postgraduate Programmes Manager

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 5660

Email: sgia.pgadmissions@durham.ac.uk

School of Government & International Affairs
Durham University
The Al-Qasimi Building
Elvet Hill Road
Durham DH1 3TU
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 5656

Fax: +44 (0)191 334 5661

www.durham.ac.uk/sgia

Durham University and Durham University Logo are registered trademarks of the University of Durham trading as Durham University. All rights reserved. © Every effort is made to ensure that all information is accurate at the time of going to press. However, changes may occur and Durham University reserves the right to amend or change any information contained in this brochure at any time.

Designed by: **crombie.**
www.crombiecreative.com

