

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Arts - Diplomacy and Global Politics <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Diplomacy and Global Politics • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Diplomacy and Global Politics
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Politics and International Relations
Professional statutory or regulatory body	
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomacy and Global Politics MA, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length • Diplomacy and Global Politics MA, Part-time day, September or January start - 2 years standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2023/4

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>.

Aims of the programme

Global challenges and issues, such as armed conflicts, terrorism, inequality and injustice, migration, religious and cultural discord, that require negotiated global solutions have increased, as have the number and range of actors and stakeholders engaged in diplomatic activity to address them. Foreign Ministries and their diplomatic services have been joined by international governmental and non-governmental organisations, even social movements and influential well-known individuals, as diplomatic actors. With the increased diversity of diplomatic actors, a greater range of goals are also being pursued, with a greater variety of means. This course aims to expand students' knowledge of diplomacy and global politics in theory and practice, and to develop their analytical and professional skills to enable them to confidently address ever-evolving global challenges and consider possible diplomatic strategies for their resolution.

With advanced analytical skills, broad knowledge of world affairs, and a thorough understanding of diplomatic concepts and theory, including their practical application in both the Global North and the Global South, the MA in Diplomacy and Global Politics aims to prepare students for work or further study, and successful careers in a diplomatic service, other civil service or international institutions, non-governmental organisations, academia or the media.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

This MA course is designed for recent graduates and early career professionals who wish to improve their knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of contemporary diplomacy and global politics, enhance their professional skills and advance their careers. It also aims to provide a strong foundation for those who wish to engage in further study of diplomacy, diplomatic innovation, and the study of global politics and governance, as well as bilateral, multilateral, and multi-stakeholder negotiations. The course is ideal if you are aiming for employment, or are already employed, in government (including the diplomatic service), international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and corporate, commercial or academic organisations. On this course you will gain knowledge and develop new professional skills, both through study and practical application.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- 001 Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the theories and concepts that underpin diplomacy and global politics and its inter-relationship with other fields. (KU PPP KTS SS CS)
- 002 Critically evaluate the role and effectiveness of diplomacy within global politics using theories and methodologies from various inter-related disciplines. (KU KTS CS)
- 003 Respond critically to current theoretical discourses within diplomacy and global politics, and draw on appropriate methodologies and practices to conceptualise your ideas. (KU)
- 004 Design investigations and formulate research questions arising from the theory and practice of diplomacy and global politics, and design and undertake research and inquiry to address those questions. (KU PPP KTS CS)
- 005 Creatively apply knowledge, theories and concepts in a variety of contexts, both familiar and unfamiliar, and synthesise ideas and information from diverse sources. (KU KTS CS)
- 006 Form reasoned arguments using evidence, including data, that may be incomplete and/or contradictory, and to evaluate the appropriateness and relative benefits of the chosen approaches. (KU KTS SS)
- 007 Work collaboratively as a member or leader of a team, to formulate solutions to problems. (PPP KTS)
- 008 Incorporate a critical ethical dimension in research and diplomatic practice, and manage the implications of ethical dilemmas. (PPP)
- 009 Reflect on your own practice through a process of personal evaluation and maintain the capability to support

effective communication in diplomatic and global political contexts. (KTS)

- 010 Recognise and critically reflect on the colonial and post-colonial aspects of diplomacy and global politics. (KU PPP KTS CS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Learning on the course will be inclusive, accessible and challenging. We are committed to removing barriers to success and contributing to social justice. We welcome and greatly value our diverse student body and the multiple perspectives on Diplomacy and Global Politics they bring. The wellbeing of our students is our priority and underpins our learning and teaching provision. We are also committed to working in partnership, co-creating the curriculum where feasible. We believe in students as 'change-makers'. To make our teaching and learning provision accessible and flexible, we have adopted digital and technology enhanced learning alongside on-site teaching.

Students will be exposed to case-based and problem-based learning and engage in authentic and experiential learning activities, such as bespoke role-simulations.

We aim to enable students from every background to develop into resilient graduates with expertise in Diplomacy and Global Politics who will respond flexibly and creatively to future challenges. We are committed to an inclusive, accessible, decolonising and diversifying curriculum.

Teaching methods

We are committed to providing personalised and flexible teaching in technology enhanced classrooms and blended learning formats. We predominantly teach in small seminar groups and tutorials, and employ active and authentic learning pedagogies where ever possible, because we know students find such teaching and learning more engaging and effective.

Module sessions will require students to demonstrate their ability to apply a range of analytical frameworks to problems, policy issues, case studies, presentations and team- based activities.

Students will learn how to solve complex problems in a systematic way, informed by relevant knowledge, tools and techniques. The contents of modules will be regularly updated in order to keep abreast with latest developments in diplomacy and global politics.

Other teaching formats include lectures, exploring case studies, and presentations by diplomacy and foreign policy practitioners and scholars. Towards the end of course, students will be required to work independently on substantial research task, under academic supervision, culminating in the submission of either an academic dissertation or a professional report.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity, inclusion and equality of opportunity for all are at the core of our engagement with each other at University of Westminster. On the MA Diplomacy and Global Politics staff aim to build trust and a supportive and safe learning environment, in which you can expand your information while getting the opportunity to become co-creators of knowledge, broaden your understanding of diversity of Diplomacy and Global Politics, and acquire skills. We appreciate that each one of us comes with our own unique identities and interests and the course team will work with you to make sure difference is celebrated and an inclusive environment is fostered.

We expect students to interact with staff and other students with respect and, in so doing, build a learning community based on trust to enable learning through vigorous study and vibrant discussion and debate. We commit to supporting you in your learning and help you reach your full potential. We treasure the contributions of our diverse student population to our learning community. To share and critically engage with competing views and practices from a variety of perspectives based on nationality, religious and political beliefs, ethnic or national origins, age, disability, sexuality, gender identity, or socio-economic background, enhances the learning experience for all.

A variety of learning, teaching and assessment formats are used across modules to cater for students' varied backgrounds and learning styles. Learning activities and assessments on the course are designed to ensure equality of opportunity and furthering social inclusion and career advancement within and beyond the university.

Assessment methods

The assessment, depending on the module, will be in the form of a policy brief, written report, academic essay or oral presentation.

The list below represents the general criteria of assessment for work on the MA. Fulfilment of these criteria will be expected in all work, both written and orally presented. Ability to:

- comprehend the central issue and the instructions
- conduct a literature review
- identify appropriate theoretical perspectives
- identify relevant methodological issues and their currency
- create and assemble relevant material
- synthesize material
- reflect critically, creatively and analytically
- build a coherent body of work
- communicate in good English
- use scholarly techniques of referencing

The grading of assessments will be based on the following broad criteria:

- the extent to which relevant material has been used
- understanding of the methodological issues
- breadth of knowledge of relevant literature and practice
- depth of analysis and background research
- evidence of critical and reflective thought
- degree of coherence and structural clarity
- command of English
- use of the apparatus of scholarly referencing

Students will be working on their dissertations throughout the duration of the entire course. In semester 1 and 2 the MA core staff will run a series of joint and area-specific workshops, and methods sessions. Students will be expected to submit the dissertation abstract and the dissertation title by the end of the first semester of instruction and after consultation with the Course Leader. The abstract and the title will be then reviewed by the MA Dissertation Committee, which will assess the viability of the proposed projects as dissertations and allocate a dissertation supervisor for every student.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 010
Literate and effective communicator	001, 005, 006, 007, 009
Entrepreneurial	004, 005, 007
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	002, 010
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	008

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7DIPP001W	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice	Core	1	20	10
7DIPP002W	Diplomacy, Crises and Global Challenges	Core	1	20	10
7DIPP003W	Diplomacy in Action: Evolution, Adaptation, Innovation	Core	2	20	10
7DIPP004W	Diplomatic Training and Negotiation Skills	Core	2	20	10
7PIRS007W	Dissertation and Research Methods	Core	2	60	30
7PIRS025W	The Politics of Global Complexity: Rethinking Governance, Power and Agency	Option	2	20	10
7PIRS002W	Contemporary Controversies in International Security: Intervention, Terrorism and Self Defence	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS003W	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies and Processes	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS010W	Global Change: Toward a New Non-Western Order?	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS011W	Global Politics of Energy and Climate Change	Option	Various	20	10
7TRSL058W	Intercultural Communication	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS022W	Postcolonial International Relations: Theories and Concepts	Option	Various	20	10
7PIRS024W	The European Union as an International Actor	Option	Various	20	10
7LANS009W	Theories and Practice of Global Communication	Option	Various	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

Course management

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a

Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found

at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in

