

HANDBOOK 2017-2018
M.Sc. in International Politics



**Trinity
College
Dublin**

The University of Dublin
Department of Political Science

The M.Sc. in International Politics

The M.Sc. in International Politics offers postgraduate students rigorous training in the study of international relations, and provides a comprehensive empirical approach to understanding many prominent problems in contemporary world politics, especially topics where domestic and international politics cannot be understood in isolation from each other. Students will also receive training in research methods.

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

The course aims to provide students with the necessary skills for a range of research-related careers, as well as careers in other areas. It is suitable for students who wish to progress to doctoral research, or to pursue careers in applied policy research, the civil service, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, or the media.

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Assess the major theories of international relations.
- Explain variation in developmental trajectories as a consequence of the interplay between domestic and international factors.
- Evaluate critically theoretical and empirical research on how the interaction between international and domestic politics affects a range of key outcomes in the field of development.
- Formulate policy-relevant research questions in the fields of international politics and related issues such as development and the environment.
- Design appropriate research strategies, applying quantitative and/or qualitative methods as appropriate, for answering policy-relevant research questions.
- Conduct independent research relevant to international politics using qualitative and/or quantitative methods.

Structure

The International Politics M.Sc. course is designed to run for one year on a full-time basis. The course commences on the Monday of the first teaching week in the College's academic year structure—usually late in September. The programme concludes with the submission of the dissertation—usually late in the following August.

For details on the structure of the TCD academic year, please see <https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/academic-year-structure/academic-year-structure.pdf>.

The course is structured around 3 terms, each of which is compulsory. In each term, students take modules summing to 30 ECTS in each term, where the dissertation in Trinity term counts for the full 30 ECTS. Thus, the degree programme sums to 90 ECTS.

Most modules in the M.Sc. programme are taught around weekly seminars, with assessment based upon participation, short assignments, and a paper. Some modules (notably Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods) will involve lectures.

Students are expected to attend class every week. In addition, please note that written work can be assigned during study week and between term times.

Michaelmas Term

Seminars may be scheduled from the Monday of teaching week 1 of Michaelmas term up to the Friday of teaching week 12 of Michaelmas term.

All students will take the following three compulsory modules (each worth 10 ECTS):

- International Politics
- Research Design
- International Conflict

Hilary Term

Seminars may be scheduled from the Monday of teaching week 1 of Hilary term up to the Friday of teaching week 12 of Hilary term.

There will be one compulsory full-term module (worth 10 ECTS):

- Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods

In unusual circumstances, this requirement can be waived for a student with a sufficiently strong background in statistics. If this occurs, the student will be expected to substitute a different (more advanced) research methods module.

Each student must also select four half-modules, where two half-modules must be taken in the first half of term and two in the second half. Each half module counts for 5 ECTS. At the discretion of the relevant lecturer and Course Director, students may choose to audit an extra half-term module in the Hilary Term—i.e., five half-modules instead of four. This extra module is not for credit and so will not count towards final degree grades. Taking an extra half-term module is not required or even recommended and students should consider carefully whether they will be able to manage the required workload.

The following modules will be available in Hilary Term 2018:

HT1 (first half of Hilary Term):

- International Human Rights Scholarship & Practice
- The European Court of Justice
- Political Violence and Political Order
- U.S. Foreign Policy
- The Political Economy of China

HT2 (second half of Hilary Term):

- Chinese Foreign Policy (requires Political Economy in Contemporary China)

- International Human Rights Institutions
- Media and International Politics
- The Military in Politics
- The Political Economy of International Development

Please note that Political Economy in Contemporary China and Governance in Chinese Foreign Policy have been paired together, so that students may integrate their work in the two modules together. The first module, however, is a prerequisite for the second; students may take the first module on its own, or take both, but they may not take the second on its own.

Trinity Term

There will be a (compulsory) dissertation seminar scheduled in the Trinity Term 2017. This term begins on Monday of the week marked “Annual Examinations 1” of Trinity term, and lasts until Friday of the week before that marked “Courts of First Appeal.” Students should arrange to be present at Trinity College throughout this period, as seminars may be scheduled at any time during this period. Students will engage in intensive research and writing for the dissertation during this period.

Part-Time Students

We offer a part-time option. This is achieved by spreading the coursework over two years. The Course Director will advise on the order in which modules should be taken over the course of the two years. The dissertation must be submitted at the end of the 2nd year.

The Dissertation

Students are required to submit a dissertation of 10,000 words on a research question of their choice. Dissertations should normally be of an empirical nature, providing an *explanation for observable variation in political phenomena*, building on political science scholarship. These should not be (merely) descriptive or prescriptive. We also welcome political theory dissertations, but to ensure proper supervision of this kind of work, students considering writing such a dissertation must consult with the M.Sc. director in writing at an early stage.

After successfully completing the dissertation, students should be able to:

- Identify a research question worthy of sustained scholarly attention.
- Design a research plan appropriate to answering that question within given time and resource constraints.
- Implement all stages of that research design independently, including the structured collection of new information, the application of appropriate analytical techniques and the interpretation of the results.
- Present their research in written form in a manner that withstands scrutiny.

The examiners are instructed to assess the dissertation according to the standards commonly used for peer-reviewed journals. In particular, examiners assess:

- The importance of the research question in the context of the academic literature and the appropriateness of its formulation.
- The appropriateness of the evidence basis examined and the analytical tools brought to bear.
- The extent to which the interpretations and conclusions are justified on the basis of the analytical results.
- The contribution that the dissertation makes to knowledge on the particular question it addresses.

Students will attend a weekly seminar during Trinity Term during which they will present their work in progress.

Students should be aware that writing a successful dissertation is a much more demanding activity than obtaining good grades in taught modules. Although students will be introduced to a variety of research methods during the M.Sc. programme, they are recommended only to use research methods, whether quantitative or qualitative, that they are confident they are capable of executing.

Dissertation Supervision

Each student will be supervised by a member of staff who will provide feedback on the student's dissertation work. Supervisors will be assigned by the beginning of Hilary Term. Each student must hand in a complete research proposal by **Monday 23 April 2018**. This proposal must be approved by the supervisor and the Course Director.

Student-supervisor meetings are expected to take place during the months of April, May and June. Each student should submit a draft of the dissertation to the supervisor for comments in June. Part of academic life is learning to work independently and the dissertation must be an independent exercise. With this in mind, advisors cannot be expected to provide feedback on dissertation drafts after **Friday 25 June 2018**. Students are expected to work independently to complete their dissertations in July and August.

Dissertation Submission, Declaration and Format

The final dissertation is due by **Monday 13 August 2018**. On or before this date, please submit your final dissertation in the following two formats:

1. Submit one copy electronically via turnitin.com.
2. Submit two hard copies in the department mailboxes, one to your dissertation supervisor and one to the Course Director (**two** to the Course Director if he is also your dissertation supervisor). If you are hand delivering them, make sure you give yourself enough time to make it to the department office, as it will close early on that date. If you are not in College, you may post two copies to the departmental office with instructions on who is to receive them. The envelope should be postmarked 14 August or earlier. Do not bind the hard copies in any fancy way, but each copy should be stapled together.

In terms of format, the dissertation must be 10,000 words or less, including **all** words

contained in the dissertation (bibliography, appendices, footnotes, tables, abstract etc.) in this count. Dissertations longer than 10,000 words may be penalized by a reduced grade. A word count should be included on the front page of the dissertation. The dissertation should be double-spaced and written in 12 point font. A short abstract (100 words or less) should be included.

On the first page of the dissertation, the student should type the following declaration: "I have read and I understand the plagiarism provisions contained in the General Regulations of the University Calendar. I declare that the assignment being submitted represents my own work and has not been taken from the work of others save where appropriately referenced in the body of the assignment." (See "Academic Standards" below for references to the University Calendar sections referring to plagiarism).

Late Work

Late work will be penalized in accordance with the guidelines of the department. For more information on this policy, please consult the department's Undergraduate Handbook, which can be found at https://www.tcd.ie/Political_Science/undergraduate/module-outlines/UndergradHandbook.pdf.

Dissertations will not be accepted after the deadline without a valid excuse. If a student misses the dissertation deadline, the student must appeal to the Course Director for permission to submit the dissertation. Permission will only be granted in the case of a valid medical certificate or documentation of other serious concern. A dissertation submitted after the deadline unexcused cannot receive a mark higher than a pass, and may be deemed a "fail" due to late submission. Note that late submission of dissertations may also prevent students from graduating in December with many of their colleagues.

A student who is facing difficulties with the M.Sc. course is strongly advised to approach the module instructor immediately (and certainly well in advance of any deadlines) to discuss how the issue can be best addressed.

Research Ethics

We wish to draw your attention to the need for you to comply with the School's research ethics policy. Full details can be found at <<http://www.tcd.ie/ssp/research/ethics/>>. The most consequential aspect of this that, should you be planning to observe, interview, poll, or experiment on human beings, you will need to get ethics approval. This involves completing a form that you will find via the link above and then having it approved/signed by the Department's Research Ethics representative. **Failure to comply with the School's research ethics policy could result in penalties, up to and including a zero mark for the dissertation.**

Academic Standards and Plagiarism

Students are reminded that plagiarism—defined by the University as the act of presenting the work of others as one's own work, without acknowledgement—is unacceptable in any circumstances. Students are referred to Part III, Section 1.32 of the College Calendar for advice on avoiding plagiarism, including through carelessness. The Calendar entry on plagiarism can be found here: <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism>.

Plagiarism may result in a student receiving a zero grade for an assignment, or a failing grade for a module or dissertation. It may also lead to the student being subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University, including the possibility of being required to withdraw from the degree programme.

Students should consult the University's webpage on plagiarism, which can be found at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism>. All students must complete the online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism which can be found on this webpage. The tutorial will generate a coversheet, which should be attached to all written work submitted in the course (including the dissertation).

It is essential that the source for your material be always clear to the reader. This does not apply only to direct quotes from a book or article—it applies to any point that you are taking directly from something that you have read. Paraphrasing the work of others and presenting it without attribution as your own is unacceptable—a citation must be given. Thus, you should be sure that (i) direct quotes are always enclosed in quotation marks (so that it is clear that you are not claiming to have written the phrases yourself); (ii) you always give the source of ideas and facts, including precise page references; and (iii) you cite your sources, not your source's sources. In other words, if you're reading a book published in 2014 and it contains a quote from a book published in 1964, make it clear that you discovered the point in the 2014 book—don't seek to give the impression that you consulted the 1964 book and found the quote yourself.

In addition to avoiding plagiarism, students must also ensure that academic work submitted for each module is "new work", i.e., is not being or has not been previously submitted for other modules in the M.Sc. programme, or as work for other university courses, including work at other universities. Where the student wishes to use previously submitted work as part of a new project, they should consult with the relevant lecturer in advance, who may prefer that completely new work is submitted.

The Department of Political Science does not impose a rigid style regarding the format of referencing. If you are unsure about what reference format to use, however, we recommend you consult the American Political Science Association's Style Manual, at <http://www.apsanet.org/Portals/54/APSA%20Files/publications/APSAStyleManual2006.pdf>. This style manual is generally an excellent resource for writing political science papers.

Withdrawal

Where a student withdraws from an M.Sc. programme, all questions relating to fees, etc. are to be referred to the Graduate Studies Office.

Assessment

Modules will be assessed by a combination of written coursework and other forms of in-class assessment. The Department of Political Science uses the following grading scheme for overall module assessment:

Excellent	70-100
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Good	60-69
Fair	50-59
Condonable Fail	40-49
Unconardonable Fail	0-39

For within-module assessed work, lecturers may use the following letter grade system, together with its associated translation into the main numeric grading scheme for the purposes of averaging:

A/A+	73/78
B/B+	63/68
C/C+	53/58
D/D+	43/48
E/E+	33/38
F/F+	23/28

Note that all marks given during the year are provisional and subject to change by the external examiner at the end of the year. After a lecturer has returned marks to students at the end of a module, they may not be changed other than at the course meeting at the end of the year.

Each dissertation will be marked by two readers, who will agree on a mark on the main numerical grading scale. The external examiner will be consulted where there is a significant disagreement between marks given by two examiners and for any dissertation deemed to have failed or achieved 70+. If a student passes the taught elements of the course but is deemed to have failed the dissertation, the student may request a viva voce examination in which he or she may defend the dissertation. Students are required to be present in Dublin during the course meeting, usually held between mid-September and mid-October, if they wish to avail of this option.

Grades and comments for module work should be returned in a prompt manner, and students should politely approach instructors for module grades if they have not been provided by the end of first week of the following term (end of first week of HT for MT grades, end of first week of Trinity Term/dissertation workshop for HT grades).

Award

The final M.Sc. is awarded in accordance with University convention as either Pass or Distinction. In addition, the Department of Political Science may award the predicate Merit to a student whose overall performance falls between these categories.

The pass mark for the M.Sc. programmes is 50%. To obtain an M.Sc., students must achieve 1) a passing mark for the dissertation; 2) an overall (weighted) average pass mark in the taught elements of the course; 3) pass marks in individual modules amounting to at least 50 ECTS; and 4) a mark of not less than 40% in the remaining module(s). Students who pass

the required modules but fail to meet the required standard on the dissertation are eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma (exit only).

The Department may recommend that the M.Sc. be awarded with the predication 'Distinction' to students who achieve 1) a mark of 70% or above in the dissertation; and 2) an overall (weighted) average mark across all taught modules of at least 68%, where modules amounting to at least 30 credits have a mark of 70% or above. A distinction cannot be awarded where the candidate has failed any credit during the course.

The Department may recommend that the M.Sc. be awarded with the predication 'Merit' to students who achieve 1) a mark of 60% or above in the dissertation and 2) an overall (weighted) average mark across all taught modules of at least 58%, where modules amounting to at least 30 credits have a mark of 60% or above. A merit cannot be awarded where the candidate has failed any credit during the course.

Personnel

Course Director, M.Sc. in International Politics:

- Dr. Jesse Dillon Savage

External Examiner:

- TBA

Lecturers (in addition to the Course Director):

- Dr. Constantine Boussalis
- Dr. Thomas Chadeaux
- Lisa Keenan
- Liam Kneafsey
- Gavin Morrison
- Dr. William Phelan
- Dr. Heidi Wang-Kaeding

M.Sc. Postgraduate Student Representative:

- To be appointed by Course Director

Head of Department:

- Prof. Michael Gallagher

Head of School of Social Sciences & Philosophy:

- Prof. Gail McElroy

Module Listing

At the start of each module, the relevant lecturer will provide a detailed syllabus for the module, detailing readings and assignments, as well as assessment criteria. The following summaries offer an indication of the modules' contents.

Title	Lecturer	Term	ECTS
International Politics	Constantine Boussalis	Michaelmas	10
International Conflict	Thomas Chadeaux	Michaelmas	10
Research Design	Constantine Boussalis	Michaelmas	10
Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods	Lisa Keenan	Hilary	10
International Human Rights Research and Practice	Gavin Morrison	Hilary ^I	5
The European Court of Justice	William Phelan	Hilary ^I	5
Political Economy in Contemporary China	Heidi Wang-Kaeding	Hilary ^I	5
U.S. Foreign Policy	Jesse Dillon Savage	Hilary ^I	5
Political Violence and Political Order	Liam Kneafsey	Hilary ^I	5
Chinese Foreign Policy	Heidi Wang-Kaeding	Hilary ^{II}	5
International Human Rights Institutions	Gavin Morrison	Hilary ^{II}	5
Media and International Politics	Liam Kneafsey	Hilary ^{II}	5
The Military in Politics	Jesse Dillon-Savage	Hilary ^{II}	5
The Political Economy of International Development	Lisa Keenan	Hilary ^{II}	5

Note: For the half-modules in Hilary term, I and II refer to the first and last five weeks of term, respectively.

Please note that Political Economy in Contemporary China and Chinese Foreign Policy have been paired together, so that students may integrate their work in the two modules together. The first module, however, is a prerequisite for the second; students may take the first module on its own, or take both, but they may not take the second on its own.



Postgraduate Advisory Service

The Postgraduate Advisory Service is a unique and confidential service available to all registered postgraduate students in Trinity College. It offers a comprehensive range of academic, pastoral and professional supports dedicated to enhancing your student experience.

Who?

The Postgraduate Advisory Service is led by the Postgraduate Support Officer, who provides frontline support for all Postgraduate students in Trinity. The Postgrad Support Officer will act as your first point of contact and a source of support and guidance regardless of your current stage of postgraduate study. In addition, each Faculty has three members of Academic staff appointed as Postgraduate Advisors to whom you can be referred by the Postgrad Support Officer for extra assistance if needed.

Contact details of the Postgrad Support Officer and the Advisory Panel are available on our website: http://www.tcd.ie/Senior_Tutor/postgraduate/

Where?

The PAS is located on the second floor of House 27. We're open from 8.30 – 4.30, Monday to Friday. Appointments are available from 9am to 4pm.

Phone: 896-1417

Email: pgsupp@tcd.ie

What?

The PAS exists to ensure that all Postgrad students have a contact point to whom they can turn for support and information on college services and academic issues arising.

Representation assistance to Postgrad students is offered in the area of discipline and/or academic appeals arising out of examinations or thesis submissions, supervisory issues, general information on Postgrad student life and many others. If in doubt, get in touch! All queries will be treated with confidentiality. For more information on what we offer see our website.

If you have any queries regarding your experiences as a Postgraduate Student in Trinity don't hesitate to get in touch with us.