

Programme Specification 2025-26

1.	Programme title	MA International Relations and Diplomacy
2.	Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a	Teaching institution	1 Middlesex University London
3b	Language of study	English

4a	Valid intake dates and mode of study	
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Mode of Study	Cohort	Delivery Location	Duration
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Hendon	
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Hendon	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Hendon	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Hendon	
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Dubai	
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Dubai	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Dubai	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Dubai	

4c	Delivery method	On Campus/Blended Learning
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5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body (if applicable)	
	N/A

6.	Apprenticeship Standard (if applicable)	N/A
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7. Final qualification(s) available	
Target Award Title(s)	MA International Relations and Diplomacy
Exit Award Title(s)	PGCert International Relations and Diplomacy
	PGDip International Relations and Diplomacy

8. Academic year effective from	2025-26
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9. Criteria for admission to the programme

2nd class or above honours degree in a relevant discipline; or

2nd class or above honours degree in any discipline plus relevant work experience; or

An equivalent qualification acceptable to the Academic Registry of the University; or

A minimum of three years relevant voluntary or professional experience, and other professional qualifications. These applications are considered on an individual basis.

Those without formal qualifications are welcome to apply and may be required to attend an interview. Additionally, such applicants will need to provide evidence of a minimum of three years relevant experience at middle to senior management level.

International applicants whose first language is not English must prove competence to study at post-graduate level in English. Normally this will involve certification of competence of IELTS (with minimum 6.0 overall, with minimum 6.0 in Reading and Writing and minimum 5.5 in Listening and Speaking) or equivalent.

Principle of fair admission

The University aims to ensure that its admissions processes are fair, open and transparent and aims to admit students who, regardless of their background, demonstrate potential to successfully complete their chosen programme of study where a suitable place exists and where entry criteria are met. The University values diversity and is committed to equality in education and students are selected on the basis of their individual merits, abilities and aptitudes. The University ensures that the operation of admissions processes and application of entry criteria are undertaken in compliance with the Equality Act. We take a personalised but fair approach to how we make offers. We feel it's important that our applicants continue to aspire to achieving great results and make offers which take into account pieces of information provided to us on the application form. This includes recognition of previous learning and experience. If you have been working, or you have other learning experience that is relevant to your course, then we can count this towards your entry requirements and even certain modules once you start studying.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

enable students to fully comprehend the key issues, processes, and institutions of international current affairs in a global context that recognizes distinctions of gender, ethnicity, social justice and human rights

equip students with critical skills in diplomatic statecraft and intelligence, the analysis of global security issues, foreign policy and geopolitical risk enable students to develop skills to locate, collate, analyze and interpret information and data.

Give students access to a broad intellectual environment through the provision of innovative and inclusive teaching, assessment and events in the multicultural and multidisciplinary setting of Middlesex University.

aid career development by refining skills that enhance employability and providing opportunities for internships in the international political world.

enhance career development by refining skills that provide students with the opportunities to demonstrate advanced critical appreciation and original thinking in conducting in-depth research or project work on topics of their own interest.

11. Programme learning outcomes

Programme - Knowledge and Understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have a knowledge and understanding of:

1. Key concepts and issues relevant to international relations
2. Theories of international relations
3. The impact of gender, ethnicity, social justice and human rights on international relations in the contemporary world
4. International political processes and institutions
5. The foreign policies of different political systems
6. Methodology for research practice

Programme - Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

7. Identify and evaluate the main threats to global security
8. critically evaluate practices of diplomatic statecraft and intelligence,
9. assess the impact of foreign policies
10. conduct geopolitical risk analysis
11. undertake information and data base searches
12. adopt the skills necessary to enhance employability
13. develop or select appropriate designs, strategies and methods of research

12. Teaching/learning methods

Students will gain knowledge and understanding through workshops (including guest speakers), and seminars, (including student-led). In class discussion, videos, visits will supplement such learning where appropriate. Independent study will be guided by suggested readings, materials and exercises where which will be followed up by in class activity appropriate.

Students learn skills through undertaking analysis of policy, strategy, risk, critical evaluation and review in single and comparative contexts. Skills in literature and data base search and systematic review will also be imparted in class with exercise support. Appropriate research skills in various methods are integrated in the Research and Dissertation module and the Work Integrated Learning module.

1Approx. number of timetabled hours per week (at each level of study, as appropriate), including on-campus and online hours

FT 8 hours

PT 5 hours

Approx. number of hours of independent study per week (at each level of study, as appropriate)

FT 42 hours

PT 20 hours

Approx. number of hours on placement (including placement, work-based learning or year abroad, as appropriate)

FT 30 hours per week over a maximum of 44 days over 24 weeks for a 60-credit placement

PT 15 hours

week over a maximum of 22 days over 12 weeks for a 15 credit placement

13. Employability

13a Development of graduate competencies

13b Employability development

In our experience most postgraduate students join MA programmes with good levels of graduate competence developed in their undergraduate adventure. The MA experience can enable students to develop such competencies further. Such competencies are largely affective skills and the MA International Relations and Diplomacy enables students to enhance such skills in a number of ways with a view to directing students towards a range of employment opportunities emerging in the fields of diplomacy, intelligence, risk and security. The development of leadership and influence is enabled through the many opportunities provided in modules through teamwork exercises, and the requirements for student teams to decide on a rapporteur and a notetaker. Students build their confidence to undertake such roles the more opportunities they get, and academic colleagues are mindful to ensure that the majority of students have opportunities to undertake such roles. Through such teamwork opportunities are also offered to enable collaborative innovation as well as enhancing attributes of communication, empathy and inclusion. Communication among fellow students and their diverse international experience enhances their curiosity and desire to learn. Such diversity among the student body involved in the MA International Relations is a great encouragement to generate empathy and inclusion in enhancing their cultural literacy skills.. In class debates and symposia are also important arenas for the development of such skills. Students also work and study individually for much of the time.

The teaching and learning strategies adopted challenges students to think and develop ideas creatively through problem solving. Opportunities are offered through exercises in the core modules including Global Security, Foreign Policy, the International Political Economy of the Media and Diplomatic Statecraft and Intelligence. The great diversity of assessment types offered in modules not only enhances student technological agility through encountering often unfamiliar software such as SPSS and N-Vivo in such modules as Research and Dissertation. The diversity and range of assessment also challenges students to develop their levels of understanding and awareness of geopolitical risks, resilience and adaptability as they are required to practice and develop their skills in presentation, debate, evaluation, critical review, video production, alongside more 'traditional' academic skills such as essay writing and reviewing literature. For students choosing to undertake the placement opportunity afforded by either Integrated Work and Learning or the longer placement involved in Work Integrated Learning, the opportunity to secure first-hand experience of working in a relevant field, and applying some of the knowledge and skills in a practical setting will also enhance their competencies in the affective skills. All of these evidently 'soft skills' or competencies are vital for the enhancement of employability. Employability development is an issue that is considered in most taught modules via a range of activities as outlined below. Employability development is predominant in the opportunities offered for placement. Students can apply to take SSC44060 Work Integrated Learning (60 credits) instead of the conventional Dissertation (SSC4809 Research and Dissertation module) through which they will undertake a placement to the equivalent of 44 days with a suitable organisation. This might be a NGO working in an area of relevance to international relations, or a research organization involved in work related to international relations. We have alumni who have gone on to be elected politicians, civil servants in senior government positions, working with an MP, working at an Embassy in diplomatic relations, journalism, or with social media. In credit bearing placements modules evaluation of the work conducted by the student will be via a reflexive diary and a final report. The effectiveness of such a placement will be through an agreement with the student to follow their career trajectory upon completing the MA and leaving the University. Indeed, an alumni project will be established to follow the career trajectory of all students upon successful completion of their MA.

In addition, and in co-operation with colleagues involved with the MA Global Governance and Sustainable Development (and those in Sociology and Criminology) occasional events and guest speakers, will be established over the course of the academic year. Visits for students to the Houses of Parliament when they are in session and other organisations relevant to international relations have been regularly organized over the academic year.

13c Placement and work experience opportunities (if applicable)

Students may elect/apply to undertake SSC4808 Integrated Work and Learning (15 credits) as an option in either Autumn or Winter semester. They may also elect to undertake SSC4060 Work Integrated Learning (60 credits) in a context which is relevant to their career pathway or aspirations. This extended placement is an alternative to undertaking a Dissertation. But students are not permitted to take both of these modules. The programme team are able to advise about projects and may be able to link students with potential internships for SSC4808 or SSC4060. However, the process of researching, selecting and negotiating the internship is a crucial element of the learning process and as such should be student led. Students will be allocated a workplace mentor and a university supervisor. The module leader for each of these modules provides workshop support for students engaged in placement, and MDXWorks provides guidance to the student in negotiating a learning agreement with the placement host, scrutiny of the placement organization and in particular ensuring that standards of employment and health and safety are suitable.

13d Future careers / progression

In our experience most postgraduate students join MA programmes with good levels of graduate competence developed in their undergraduate adventure. The MA experience can enable students to develop such competencies further. Such competencies are largely affective skills and the MA International Relations and Diplomacy enables students to enhance such skills in a number of ways with a view to directing students towards a range of employment opportunities emerging in the fields of diplomacy, intelligence, risk and security. The development of leadership and influence is enabled through the many opportunities provided in modules through teamwork exercises, and the requirements for student teams to decide on a rapporteur and a notetaker. Students build their confidence to undertake such roles the more opportunities they get, and academic colleagues are mindful to ensure that the majority of students have opportunities to undertake such roles. Through such teamwork opportunities are also offered to enable collaborative innovation as well as enhancing attributes of communication, empathy and inclusion. Communication among fellow students and their diverse international experience enhances their curiosity and desire to learn. Such diversity among the student body involved in the MA International Relations is a great encouragement to generate empathy and inclusion in enhancing their cultural literacy skills.. In class debates and symposia are also important arenas for the development of such skills. Students also work and study individually for much of the time. The teaching and learning strategies adopted challenges students to think and develop ideas creatively through problem solving. Opportunities are offered through exercises in the core modules including Global Security, Foreign Policy, the International Political Economy of the Media and Diplomatic Statecraft and Intelligence. The great diversity of assessment types offered in modules not only enhances student technological agility through encountering often unfamiliar software such as SPSS and N-Vivo in such modules as Research and Dissertation. The diversity and range of assessment also challenges students to develop their levels of understanding and awareness of geopolitical risks, resilience and adaptability as they are required to practice and develop their skills in presentation, debate, evaluation, critical review, video production, alongside more 'traditional' academic skills such as essay writing and reviewing literature. For students choosing to undertake the placement opportunity afforded by either Integrated Work and Learning or the longer placement involved in Work Integrated Learning, the opportunity to secure first-hand experience of working in a relevant field, and applying some of the knowledge and skills in a practical setting will also enhance their competencies in the affective skills. All of these evidently 'soft skills' or competencies are vital for the enhancement of employability.

14. Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by essays, presentations, critical reviews of journal articles, comparative country analysis, annotated bibliographies and diplomatic strategy analysis. Summative assessment is preceded by a short formative assessment in each taught module. Dissertations and Work Placement Reports

Students' skills are assessed by essays, presentations, critical reviews of journal articles, comparative country analysis, annotated bibliographies and diplomatic strategy analysis. Completing the Dissertation provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate the range of skills they have accumulated. Students who instead undertake the placement through Work Integrated Learning have the opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of the skills they have accumulated in taught modules and in placement to their current and future employability.

15. Programme Structure (level of study, modules, credits and progression requirements)

Structure is indicative for Part-time routes.

Students must take all of the compulsory modules and choose following programme requirements from the optional modules.

Non-compensatable modules are noted below.

Available Pathways

Not Applicable

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
POI4801	Compulsory	Global Security 2025-26	30 at Level 7
POI4802	Compulsory	Foreign Policy and Geopolitical Risks in a Changing World Order 2025-26	15 at Level 7
POI4804	Compulsory	International Political Economy of Media 2025-26	15 at Level 7
POI4803	Compulsory	Critical Skills in Diplomatic Statecraft and Intelligence 2025-26	30 at Level 7

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT Semester 1 optional modules

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
SSC4808	Optional	Intergrated Work and Learning 2025-26	15 at Level 7
SSC4801	Optional	Migration: Debates and Governance 2025-26	15 at Level 7
SSC4803	Optional	Sustainable Development and Human Rights 2025-26	15 at Level 7
SSC4807	Optional	Cities and Sustainable Development 2025-26	15 at Level 7

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT Semester 2 optional modules

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4811	Optional	Law and Policy of The World Trade Organization 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4812	Optional	Business and Human Rights 2025-26	15 at Level 7
CRM4636	Optional	Terrorism and Violent Extremism 2025-26	15 at Level 7
SSC4802	Optional	Intersectionality in Practice 2025-26	15 at Level 7
SSC4806	Optional	Climate Justice 2025-26	15 at Level 7

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT Semester 3 - Learning and Support Sessions to support students taking either SSC4809 or SSC4060

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
SSC4809	Compulsory	Research and Dissertation 2025-26	60 at Level 7
SSC4060	Compulsory	Work Integrated Learning 2025-26	60 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 PT Semester 1 Options PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
SSC4808	Optional	Intergrated Work and Learning 2026-27	15 at Level 7
SSC4801	Optional	Migration: Debates and Governance 2026-27	15 at Level 7
SSC4803	Optional	Sustainable Development and Human Rights 2026-27	15 at Level 7
SSC4807	Optional	Cities and Sustainable Development 2026-27	15 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 PT Semester 2 Options PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits
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			at FHEQ Level
LEX4811	Optional	Law and Policy of The World Trade Organization 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4812	Optional	Business and Human Rights 2026-27	15 at Level 7
CRM4636	Optional	Terrorism and Violent Extremism 2026-27	15 at Level 7
SSC4802	Optional	Intersectionality in Practice 2026-27	15 at Level 7
SSC4806	Optional	Climate Justice 2026-27	15 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 PT Semester 3 - Learning and Support Sessions to support students taking either SSC4809 or SSC4060

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
SSC4809	Compulsory	Research and Dissertation 2026-27	60 at Level 7
SSC4060	Compulsory	Work Integrated Learning 2026-27	60 at Level 7

*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

16. Programme-specific support for learning
<p>Students whose first language is not English or who otherwise wish to have support with academic writing can access specialist Learning Enhancement (LE) on the Campus.</p> <p>The University English Language Centre offers English language courses (pre-entry) to enable applicants to achieve the required entry score</p> <p>The mylearning pages for each module provides additional information and resources to support students. Course materials, links to resources and interactive exercises are provided. Each student will have a designated research or work-integrated learning supervisor</p> <p>Learning Enhancement can provide one-to-one tutorials and workshops for those students needing additional support with literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>Facilities and equipment available to assist students with disabilities. Access to careers information and an Employability Service (MDXWorks) staffed with careers advisers with extensive knowledge of career options in politics. Middlesex University Library and subject librarian will provide access to specialist learning resources i.e., journals, textbooks, reports etc. For ease of access for students based at Hendon, the library has facilities for inter-</p>

library loans and photocopying of any articles required. The library can also provide texts/articles or chapters where possible in electronic format for students. Other articles may be obtained from the British Library in London where a similar provision is provided. MyLearning provides additional information and resources to support students. Counselling and Mental Health Team – provides mental wellbeing support and a confidential individual counselling service to help students manage any challenges affecting them emotionally or psychologically that they might face during their study. Disability and Dyslexia Service – supporting an inclusive teaching and learning environment which caters for all students. Student Welfare Advice Team – providing information and advice on funding matters and housing. International Student Advice Team – providing information and advice on visa and immigration concerns, for both international applicants and current international students. Law Progression and Support Team – providing ongoing student support to ensure students' progress on their programme.

17. HECos code(s)	100490: International Relations
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18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)	
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19. University Regulations

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations: Policies Middlesex University
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20. Reference points

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21. Other information (if applicable)
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Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.