UNIVERSITY OF FORWARD THINKING WESTMINSTER⊞

Part one: Programme Specification

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	MA in International Relations; MA in International Relations & Democratic Politics; MA in International Relations & Security; These are Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degrees or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations; Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations & Democratic Politics; Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Security; Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations; Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations & Democratic Politics; Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations & Security
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Regent site
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Paulina Tambakaki
Course URL:	http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/politics-and-international-relations/postgraduate-courses
Mode and length of study:	1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
University of Westminster course code:	Programme Code (PISPPRM) Route Codes: MA in International Relations - FT and PT (INRPINR) MA in International Relations & Democratic Politics -FT and PT (IRPPIRP) MA in International Relations & Security - FT and PT (IRSPIRS) There are no separate codes for Postgraduate Diplomas Or Postgraduate Certificates

JACS code:	
UCAS code:	
QAA subject benchmarking group:	None
Professional body accreditation:	None
Date of course validation/review:	2012
Date of programme specification:	2014/15

Admissions requirements

- A good Honours degree, namely a first class or upper second Honours degree or equivalent in politics, international relations or a social science discipline.
- Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to provide proof of competence in English. This will normally take the form of either an IELTS score of at least 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 600.
- Applications must be supported by an academic reference written on University note paper by an academic familiar with the applicant's abilities and other qualities.
- Applications from mature candidates are welcomed.

Aims of the course

Master's courses at the University provide curriculums supported by high quality research, scholarship, staff development and a distinctive research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate. In all our courses we seek to create a rich learning environment that is receptive to the needs and views of Masters students, encourages them to achieve their full potential, and promotes a scholarly commitment to open and critical enquiry in the fields of international relations, democratic politics and security studies.

Each Master's course has its own distinct aims:

The Masters of Arts in International Relations aims:

1. To enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of international relations and to make use of the concepts, approaches and methods of International Relations theory to critically analyse the contested nature of global, regional and national politics.
2. To examine at the Masters level events, processes, ideas and institutions of international relations and evaluate the significance of topics including state sovereignty, state failures and foreign interventions; the changing patterns of insecurity, violence and conflict; the role of religion in politics with focus on Islam and transformations in the Middle East; the emergence of non-Western powers of China and India; shifts within the European Union and its role as an international actor; controversies in United States foreign policies; politics of international governance and development.

The Masters of Arts in International Relations and Democratic Politics aims:

1. To ensure that students acquire knowledge and understanding of democratic processes and institutions, and use the concepts, approaches and methods of democratic theory and analysis to develop a critical understanding of their contested

nature and application both in the domestic and international realm.

2. To examine at the Master's level the changing nature and dynamics of   democratic politics, and to facilitate the development of analytical skills that enable students to understand different democratic initiatives and practice within a wider historical and theoretical framework.

3. To examine discourses of democracy promotion and facilitate an advanced understanding of complex processes of international policy making.

The Masters of Arts in International Relations and Security aims:

1. To ensure that students acquire knowledge and understanding of international relations and security, and use the concepts and approaches of theories of international security to critically analyse and interpret dominant security issues.

2. To examine at the Masters level events, ideas and approaches key to the understanding of the international security agenda, and to evaluate their application, implications and future trajectory within a broader theoretical and historical framework.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie 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.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding

Specific skills

By the end of the course, you would be in a position to critically evaluate at an advanced level the nature and significance of international political practice; theoretical approaches and debates in international relations, security and democratic studies; concepts such as power, agency, the state, democracy, security and the international system; the origins and development of the international political system, including contemporary changes underway; the analysis of processes by which the social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of globalisation relate to international politics; and the analytical study of the roles played by political actors, political institutions, strategic behaviour, communicative action and persuasion, hypothesis testing and empirical analysis.

See also the section entitled Learning Objectives of Our Master's Courses Section 11 of this handbook.

Key transferable skills

By the end of your Masters course, you should be able to use the skills of critical analysis, academic enquiry, decision making and other higher order capabilities, gained from your studies, to demonstrate the following transferable skills:

1. Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organization and time management;
2. Construct reasoned argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise critical judgement at an advanced level;
3. Undertake sustained research in the areas of international relations, democratic politics, security and related areas;
4. Manage and deliver well-structured, coherently argued, timely and clearly-presented oral and written reports and presentations at an advanced level;
5. Collaborate with others to achieve common goals;
6. Reflect on your own learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback;
7. Manage your own further learning self-critically.

Many of the skills that you will acquire on the Masters of Arts in International Relations, Masters of Arts in International Relations and Democratic Politics, Masters of Arts in International Relations and Security are specifically transferable to future employment or further research training, so that at the end of your course you will be able to:

- Use acquired knowledge and understanding to initiate your own or your   employer's research projects in international relations, politics or related fields;
- Work independently and self-critically on research tasks in a well-organized manner and within time and informational constraints;
- Develop with confidence and competence a research strategy, working hypothesis, and methodology in international relations and politics more generally and practice research, hypothesis adaptation, and data collection;
- Work effectively in a group, either as a director or a member, able to negotiate differences of opinion, collaborate in specific tasks, and manage deadlines;
- Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing on a variety of topics in international politics at an advanced level;

Using Your Masters Degree: Our Graduates' Careers

Recent graduates now have jobs in governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations; the mass media; and a range of international business and cross-cultural organisations. Others are studying for higher degrees at other universities throughout the world.

Here are some examples of the ways in which our Masters courses have provided recent graduates with important knowledge, understanding and specific skills that they have been able to transfer to new professional career challenges.

Joyanto M. from India gained his MA in International Relations and Contemporary Political Theory (now entitled International Relations and Democratic Politics) in July 2010, having begun his studies in January 2007. He returned to India in 2010 to take up a post as research analyst for the Strategic Foresight Group, a strategic think tank in Mumbai that specialises in economics and trade, recession and water security. At the time, he wrote: 'I am excited about the work. I am working on south Asia and Western Europe. Strategic Foresight Group is a prestigious think-tank with a high reputation. It works closely with our government in India as well as with various governments across the globe and the UN. I am also giving lectures on journalism in top colleges across the city here.' In 2011 he moved to the Harkisan Mehta Foundation Institute of Journalism and Mass Communication, also in

Mumbai, and was appointed institute director. The Harkisan Mehta Institute has produced some of the top media professionals in India over the last 20 or so years.

Richard S. joined our MA in International Relations in September 2007 and gained a Distinction in October the following year. He is now working in the European Parliament's Office for Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy (OPPD). Richard writes: 'A central aspect of my job - and the one I am most involved in - is hosting short term delegations and longer term Democracy Fellows in the Parliament … [so that] through contact with their European parliamentary equivalents the parliamentarians and officials get to know how the EP deals with particular aspects of parliamentary life. My job mostly involves preparing programmes for these visits.'

'The different ways in which to view international events, which were taught in the MA - the 'neo-colonial' perspective; the understanding of foreign policy as the result of various inputs, including bureaucratic politics and presidential preferences (both very recognizable from my current position); the poststructuralist re-readings; etc - were most valuable. These general approaches can be re-applied to new issue areas… Even though my MA in IR is not necessary in my position, it was certainly necessary for me to get the position in the first place. It functions as a signal of my interest in the general subject area and my basic analytical ability. As part of this signalling, the name of the faculty, 'Centre for the Study of Democracy', was probably also of central importance.

Mona E-K from Egypt gained her MSc in Politics from Cairo University in 2006. She won the University President's Scholarship to study for her masters in International Relations and Contemporary Political Theory (International Relations and Democratic Politics) at Westminster. She graduated in July 2008 with a Merit. After graduation she obtained an internship at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London working on the Gulf. She recently completed her PhD on Representation in Egyptian public spaces at Kings College at the University of London.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning

One of the characteristics of our Masters is their focus on theoretical and conceptual issues with reference to a wide range of debates in international relations, democratic theory, security studies and cognate disciplines. The courses thus emphasise the importance of theoretically and conceptually-based research methodologies that relate to empirical and normative analysis. To this end, the core modules aim to give you the theoretical and methodological tools you will need to pursue independent research on more specific topics. Within the classroom, the theoretically-based approaches developed by the module leaders as part of the teaching process provide students with ongoing examples of how critical analysis may be developed and applied.

In particular, *1ISP7A3 International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives, 1ISP7C3 Theories of International Security* and *SISP701 Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues* seek to give you a critical introduction to a range of major theoretical approaches and models relevant to their cognate field of study. The weekly discussions in these modules are almost exclusively oriented to clarifying, critiquing and applying the key theoretical and methodological perspectives of the cognate fields. The remaining core modules - *1ISP7A5 International Relations: Beyond International Relations?*, *SPIR700 The Politics of Global Complexity*, *1ISP7C2 Contemporary Controversies in International Security* and the taught group sessions in *1ISP7B6, Dissertation and Research Methods* - offer you further critical guidance in applying key theoretical and methodological approaches to specific empirical questions. The theoretical and methodological training you will acquire across the core modules, and particularly in the *Dissertation and Research Methods* module, will give you a sound methodological basis to build on in the optional modules and the writing of your

dissertation.

Training in the use and development of more specific research skills and methods aimed to help you write your assignments and dissertation is provided by the *Dissertation and Research Methods* module *1SP7B6*, which forms an integral component of DPIR's Masters programme. At the beginning of your course of studies, you will be given the *Dissertation and Research Methods* module programme, which will include a specific timetable of taught sessions in your first and second semester. As with other modules, all students are required to attend.

Teaching

The Department's teaching and learning approach is one whereby staff and students take seriously their individual and group development in terms of life-long learning. Our teaching and learning approach encourages students and staff to see themselves as part of a learning community and encourages staff to develop not only their research, but also the ways in which they communicate and share their knowledge with colleagues and students. Our underlying aim is to enhance the learning experience for students and staff and to maximise learning opportunities for students.

In line with Faculty policy, the Department is committed to:

1.	encouraging and developing student-centred, independent and active learning, so that students are encouraged progressively to think, act and learn for themselves and to reflect upon their learning.

2.	equipping its graduates with the knowledge, understanding and professional skills to enable them to make an effective contribution to society and to build meaningful lives and careers for themselves.

3.	continuous and rigorous improvement in the quality of the teaching delivered by its staff and the learning opportunities provided for its students.

4.	a culture of professionalism and continuing professional development of its staff and all their activities.

5.	valuing teaching and learning as its core business and developing mechanisms and structures that recognise and reward excellence in teaching.

6.	providing programmes which meet the needs of students in London and the wider community, and to operating a teaching, learning and assessment strategy which maximizes participation, retention and completion.

7.	underpinning and informing teaching excellence by staff research, apprising students of the latest relevant research, and involving students in staff research where possible.

8.	sharing knowledge, life experience and expertise as part of the curriculum, maximising the wide range of experiences present in our diverse and international student body.

9.	continuous monitoring and evaluation of its teaching activities to ensure the quality of its provision (see SSHL Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2009-2011 at: http://www.westminster.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/33062/WEx-07-01-01-2009-11-LTAS.pdf).

10.	through the Faculty, to producing clear and measurable teaching and learning targets

annually, which actuate our teaching and learning principles.

Assessment

The overall approach to assessment reinforces the philosophy, syllabuses and teaching strategy of the Masters Programme. In designing our assessment strategy, we purposely rejected traditional exams as not offering the best means by which we could assess higher order analytical, diagnostic, comprehension, imaginative, and critical skills; and because they might discriminate against students unfamiliar with the British higher education system. In lieu, we have designed sensitive methods of continual assessment that better meet course aims and objectives.

Continual assessment methods include delivering written project work, marked oral and written presentations, book reviews, essays, and the dissertation.

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.

Core modules are compulsory. They define a particular course of study and provide you with its theoretical and intellectual foundations. In each of our Masters courses, they place questions of international order and politics at the centre of analysis; ensure that you are able to acquire appropriate knowledge and understanding and are able to understand and use relevant concepts, approaches and methods and how these relate to other areas of academic enquiry. One core module is common to all three Masters degrees: 1ISP7B6 *Dissertation and Research Methods* module. In this module you will work independently, under the supervision of a tutor, to apply the knowledge, understanding and skills gained from other modules to design a research strategy and methodology that includes the development, adaptation, and testing of a hypothesis or research question contextualised in existing research, and which leads to you executing and writing up a relatively advanced piece of research.

One limitation is imposed: On all three of our Masters degrees, you may submit your dissertation only when you have taken all other modules in your course of study.

Option modules allow you to choose from a list of related modules that reflect your particular interests.

MA Course Structure (full-time)

MA International Relations	MA International Relations & Democratic Politics	MA International Relations & Security
Core Modules (100 Credits)	**Core Modules (100 Credits)**	**Core Modules (100 Credits)**
1ISP7A3 International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives (20 credits);	SPIR700 The Politics of Global Complexity: Rethinking Governance, Power and Agency (20 credits)	1ISP7C3 Theories of International Security (20 credits)
1ISP7A5 Beyond International Relations (20 credits)	SISP701 Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues (20 credits)	1ISP7C2 Contemporary Controversies in International Security (20 credits)
1ISP7B6 Dissertation and Research Methods (60 credits)	1ISP7B6 Dissertation and Research Methods (60 credits)	1ISP7B6 Dissertation and Research Methods (60 credits)
Option Modules (80 Credits)	**Option Modules (80 Credits)**	**Option Modules (80 Credits)**
4 Option Modules (20 credits each) selected from the list below.	4 Option Modules (20 credits each) selected from the list below.	4 Option Modules (20 credits each) selected from the list below.
Students choose two option modules per semester.	Students choose two option modules per semester.	Students choose two option modules per semester.
No restrictions apply.	No restrictions apply.	No restrictions apply.
	Students who have no background in International Relations are strongly advised to choose International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives as an option module.	Students who have no background in International Relations are advised to choose International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives as an option module.

OPTION MODULES

MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1ISP7C2	Contemporary Controversies in International Security
1ISP7B5	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies
1ISP7B2	Democracy and Islam
SISP701	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues.
SISP7C6	Development Theories, Policies and Practices
1EUR7A9	European Union as an International Actor.
1ISP7C5	Global Change: Toward a Non-Western Order?
1GDT7A5	Globalisation, Democratisation and Post Authoritarian Transition
1EUR7A0	Governance of the European Union
SISP700	Islam and Politics in the Middle East
SPIR702	Issues in International Politics of Resource
SPIR700	Politics of Global Complexity: Rethinking Governance, Power and Agency
SISP703	Policy Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives
1ISP7C4	Postcolonial International Relations
1ISP7A1	State Politics and Violence
1ISP7C3	Theories of International Security

MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

1ISP7C2	Contemporary Controversies in International Security
1ISP7B5	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies
1ISP7B2	Democracy and Islam
SISP7C6	Development Theories, Policies and Practices
1EUR7A9	European Union as an International Actor.
1ISP7C5	Global Change: Toward a Non-Western Order?
1GDT7A5	Globalisation, Democratisation and Post Authoritarian Transition
1EUR7A0	Governance of the European Union
1ISP7A3	International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives
1ISP7A5	International Relations: Beyond International Relations?
SISP700	Islam and Politics in the Middle East
SPIR702	Issues in International Politics of Resource
SISP703	Policy Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives
1ISP7C4	Postcolonial International Relations
1ISP7A1	State Politics and Violence
1ISP7C3	Theories of International Security

MA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

1ISP7B5	Controversies in United States Foreign Policies
1ISP7B2	Democracy and Islam
SISP701	Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues
SISP7C6	Development Theories, Policies and Practices
1EUR7A9	European Union as an International Actor.
1ISP7C5	Global Change: Toward a Non-Western Order?
1GDT7A5	Globalisation, Democratisation and Post Authoritarian Transition
1EUR7A0	Governance of the European Union
1ISP7A3	International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives
1ISP7A5	International Relations: Beyond International Relations?
SISP700	Islam and Politics in the Middle East

SPIR702   Issues in International Politics of Resource
SISP703   Policy Governance and Democracy: International Perspectives
SPIR700   Politics of Global Complexity: Rethinking Governance, Power and Agency
1ISP7C4   Postcolonial International Relations
1ISP7A1   State Politics and Violence

MA Course Structure (part-time)

MA International Relations	MA International Relations & Democratic Politics	MA International Relations & Security
Year 1 (80 Credits)	**Year 1 (80 Credits)**	**Year 1 (80 Credits)**
1ISP7A3 International Relations: Theoretical Perspectives (20 credits)	SPIR700 The Politics of Global Complexity: Rethinking Governance, Power and Agency (20 credits)	1ISP7C3 Theories of International Security (20 credits)
1ISP7A5 Beyond International Relations (20 credits)	SISP701 Democratic Politics: Key Debates and Issues (20 credits)	1ISP7C2 Contemporary Controversies in International Security (20 credits)
2 Option Modules (20 credits each, one per semester). Same list and as for full time students.	2 Option Modules (20 credits, one per semester). Same list as for full time students.	2 Option Modules (20 credits each, one per semester). Same list as for full time students.
Year 2 (100 Credits)	**Year 2 (100 Credits)**	**Year 2 (100 Credits)**
1ISP7B6 Dissertation and Research Methods (60 credits)	1ISP7B6 Dissertation and Research Methods (60 credits)	1ISP7B6 Dissertation and Research Methods (60 credits)
2 Option Modules (20 credits each, one per semester). Same list as for full time students.	2 Option Modules (20 credits each, one per semester). Same list as for full time students.	2 Option Modules (20 credits each, one per semester). Same list as for full time students.

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Academic regulations

The MAs in International Relations, International Relations and Democratic Politics and International Relations and Security and their intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called Essential Westminster, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in

conjunction with Section 18: Modular Framework for Postgraduate Courses and relevant sections of the current Handbook of Academic Regulations, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

Award

To qualify for the award of MA, a student must have:

- obtained a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7 (this may include a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6 where validated as part of the award);

- attempted modules worth no more than 240 credits; and

  Note: A first attempt of any module will count as an attempt, and a re-attempt of any module that a student has failed will count as a further, separate attempt. Re-assessment following referral at the first sit will not count as a further separate attempt.

- satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant Course Scheme.

The University may award:

- a Masters Degree with Merit to a student whose marks average at least 60% across modules at Level 7.

- a Masters Degree with Distinction to a student whose marks average at least 70% across the modules at Level 7.

Support for students

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. 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 at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

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.

At University level, Services for Students provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The International Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Reference points for the course

Internally

The Course Director is Dr Paulina Tambakaki. Her office is located at 32-38 Wells Street in Room 512 on the Fifth Floor. Full details of the Course Team, their locations, telephone extensions and Email addresses can be found at the end of this handbook.

The course is located at the Department of Politics and International Relations within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. The Course Director, with the support of the DPIR Administrator, Suzy Robson, is responsible for the overall day-to-day enquiries and concerns of students. Her email is P.Tambakaki01@westminster.ac.uk.

The Head of Department holds academic responsibility for these and other courses within the Department. The Course Director is responsible to the Dean of Faculty for the smooth operation and development of the course.

Externally

Responsibility for admissions procedures and the overall regulation, monitoring and evaluation of the course rests with the School and the Regent site under the authority of the University. There is a Course Executive responsible for assisting the Course Director in the day-to-day management of the course. The Course Executive comprises the Course Director, the Head of the Department and two other members of the teaching team. It is assisted by the module leaders and is responsible for:

admissions; approving student programmes of study; tutoring/counselling and pastoral care; co-ordinating marks for the Assessment Board; general management of your course.

Quality management and enhancement

Course management

University policy and regulations govern Quality Assurance and Enhancement for our Masters programmes. Underpinning these processes is the concept of peer group evaluation and review.

Quality Assurance and Monitoring processes are regularly discussed in DPIR staff meetings. In line with the policy of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, our Course Committee forms an important element of the School's quality control processes, as it provides the opportunity to gather student feedback on the quality of course/module delivery, consult on proposed changes, and provide information. This committee plays an equally important role in terms of the quality assurance system because the minutes of the meetings are used in the monitoring exercises conducted by the Quality and Enhancement Committee (QAEC) and also in the periodic course Review held every 5-6 years (Quality Assurance and Enhancement, 2010).

DPIR staff take course committee meetings seriously. They provide meaningful arenas for the discussion of course issues and student experiences, and represent, therefore, vital source of information by which the teaching team may achieve quality assurance and enhancement. Meetings are attended by academic and support staff, as well as student representatives. One meeting is held each semester and is chaired by the DPIR Head. The course director alerts students of forthcoming meetings, and an agenda and minutes of the previous meeting are circulated in a timely manner to members, including student

representatives, via email. Minutes of previous meetings are available on the DPIR website; they indicate that several important issues have been raised, which the course team have responded to. (For more information on Course Committees, please see sections 5.1 – 5.4. Further, a distinguishing characteristic of the British universities is the system of External Examiners who are responsible for monitoring all assessment assignments and moderating assessed work. Previous examiners have been academics from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, the University of Nottingham, and Oxford University. Following each assessment cycle, the External Examiner reports to our University (please see also section 4.5 of this Handbook).

An annual monitoring report for QAEC (the University's Quality Assurance Enhancement Committee) is prepared by the course director based upon information on your course. The report includes evaluations of external examiner reports; minutes of course committee meetings; feedback from the university student questionnaires and meetings with students.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The courses were initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 1998; 2008 and 20011. The panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty 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 outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback 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. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey, which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience. Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's' quality assurance evidence base. For more information about this course: Dr Paulina Tambakaki, MA Course Director; Email: P.Tambakaki01@westminster.ac.uk