University of Birmingham

International Relations (Contemporary Asia Pacific) MA/PGDip

This programme is for students who want an advanced knowledge of the main issues, problems and actors in the diverse region of East Asia today, or who wish to expand their knowledge of a dynamic and rapidly changing key economic region of the world, or to pursue any area of professional life in, or linked to, East Asia. A prior knowledge of the region is not necessary.

This core pathway is designed for flexibility, allowing you to choose over half of the MA content from a **wide range of optional modules (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=Modules)**.

In the School of Government and Society we offer much more than a degree. As a student here, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, **you have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of events (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx)**, with some or all of the costs paid for by the School.

Course details: **Details (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=CourseDetailsTab)** | **Why study this course (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=WhyStudyThisCourse)** | **Modules (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=Modules)** | **Fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding)** | **Entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements)** | **How to apply (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply)**.

Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Taught

Study Options: Full time, part time

Duration: 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

Start date: September

Related courses

International Relations (Diplomacy) MA/PGDip (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-diplomacy.aspx)

International Relations (with specialist pathways) MA/PGDip (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations.aspx)

International Relations (Gender) MA/PGDip (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-gender.aspx)

International Relations (International Peacekeeping) MA/PGDip (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-peacekeeping.aspx)

International Relations (International Political Economy) MA/PGDip (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-political-economy.aspx)

International Relations (Research Methods) MA/PGDip (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-research-methods.aspx)

International Relations (Security) MA/PGDip (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-security.aspx)

International Relations (Terrorism and Political Violence) MA/PGDip (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-terrorism-political-violence.aspx)

Contact

Got a question? ***Find your answers here (http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24)***.

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Programme convenor
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School of Government and Society (/schools/government-society/index.aspx)

Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/index.aspx)

Details

Course details: **Why study this course (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=WhyStudyThisCourse)** | **Modules (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=Modules)** | **Fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding)** | **Entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements)** | **How to apply (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations-contemporary-asia-pacific.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply)**.

The Asia-Pacific is a dynamic and rapidly changing key economic region in the world. Despite experiencing unrivalled economic growth, it must also face growing concerns over such issues as security, energy, the environment and internal cohesion. For the rest of the world, turning their back on the key players in the Asia Pacific, is not an option. This degree offers advanced knowledge of the main issues, problems and actors in the diverse region of East Asia today.

Each year, a number of students from East Asia take the degree, in order to study their region from a different cultural and theoretical set of perspectives. Students who wish to work in or with East Asia take the degree and its modules, in order to gain an insight into the cultural, economic and political opportunities and challenges of the region.

Issues and topics examined include

- China's emerging status as a world power
- The regional institutions of East Asia
- Security issues, including nuclear weapons and terrorism
- Human rights, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction
- Environmental security and climate change

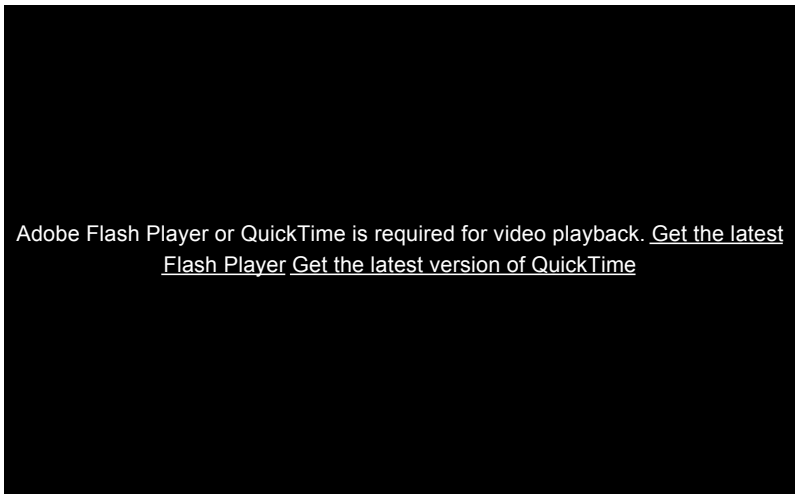
One of the real strengths of our masters programmes is the wide range of available modules, giving students the ability to tailor their course of study to their own academic interests.

Who is the programme for?

This programme is for students who want an advanced knowledge of the main issues, problems and actors in the diverse region of East Asia today, or who wish to expand their knowledge of a dynamic and rapidly changing key economic region of the world, or to pursue any area of professional life in, or linked to, East Asia. A prior knowledge of the region is not necessary.

More information on: International Relations MA (with specialist pathways) (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/international-relations.aspx)

Why study this course



Modules

This degree comprises the following modules:

Compulsory core module:

- 40 credits - **Asia Pacific Security (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/asia-pacific-security.aspx)**
- 60 credits - **Dissertation (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/dissertation-polsis.aspx)** MA students to submit a 13,500 word dissertation (not applicable to Diploma Students)

80 credits from the following:

- 40 credits - **Asia Pacific Security (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/asia-pacific-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Caucasus: History, Culture and Contemporary Politics (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/caucasus-history-culture-contemporary-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Civil War, Conflict Management And Peacekeeping (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/civil-war-conflict-international-intervention.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Developments in Contemporary Political Analysis (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/developments-contemporary-political-analysis.aspx)**
- 40 credits - **Diplomacy and Statecraft (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/diplomacy-statecraft.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Diplomatic History of the Twentieth Century (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/diplomatic-history-twentieth-century.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Ethical Dimensions of Terrorism, Political Violence and War (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/ethical-dimensions-terrorism-political-violence-war.aspx)**
- 40 credits - **European Security (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/european-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Gender and Global Governance (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/gender-global-governance.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Germany's Foreign Policy since the end of the Cold War (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/germanys-foreign-policy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Politics of Global Climate Change (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/global-climate-change.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Global Environmental Governance (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/global-environmental-governance.aspx)**
- 20 credits - Global Ethics 1

- 20 credits - Global Ethics 2
- 20 credits - History and Politics of South Africa (CWAS)
- 40 credits - **International Political Economy (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/international-political-economy.aspx)**
- 40 credits - **International Relations Theory (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/international-relations-theory.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Politics of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/politics-arab-israeli-conflict.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and International Order (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/post-conflict-peacebuilding-international-order.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Readings in Russian and East European Studies (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/readings-russian-east-european-studies.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Researching Russia and Eastern Europe (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/researching-russia-eastern-europe.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Rising Powers and Global Order (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/rising-powers-global-order.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Russian and Ukrainian Politics and International Relations (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/russian-ukrainian-politics-international-relations.aspx)**
- 40 credits - **Security Studies (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/security-studies.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Sex, Death, Gender and (In) Security (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/sex-death-gender-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Social Theory and Critique: Contested Knowledge (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/social-theory-critique-contested-knowledge.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Social Theory: From Marxism To Post Marxism (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/social-theory-marxism-post-marxism.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Terrorism and Political Violence (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/terrorism-political-violence.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Terrorism and Contemporary Conflict (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/terrorism-contemporary-conflict.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Theory and Ethics of Terrorism and Political Violence (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/theory-ethics-terrorism-political-violence.aspx)**
- 20 credits - Migration, Superdiversity, Policy and Practice (IASS)
- 20 credits - Globalisation, International Migration and Citizenship (IASS)

Fees and funding

Fees for 2015 - 16:

Masters (MA):

- UK/EU full-time: £6,210
- UK/EU part-time: £3,105
- International full-time: £14,140

Postgraduate Diploma:

- UK/EU full-time: £6,210
- UK/EU part-time: £3,105
- International full-time: £9,427

Please check with the Department for the latest fees information.

Learn more about **fees and funding (/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx)**

Scholarships and studentships
Scholarships may be available. **International students (/International/students/finance/scholarships/index.aspx)** can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

For further information contact the School directly or visit **studenthelp.bham.ac.uk (http://www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk/)** .

Scholarships and bursaries (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/courses/scholarships-bursaries.aspx) in the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS).

Entry requirements

For the MA programme you require a good Honours degree or its equivalent. For those whose first language is not English, an IELTS Certificate is required.

Learn more about **entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/pg/requirements)** .

International students:

Academic requirements

We accept a range of qualifications, our **country pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx)** show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an **English language qualification (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx)** to the right level
- by taking and successfully completing one of our **English courses for international students (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx)**

How to apply

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the **How to apply pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx)**

Apply now (https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/COS049.htm)

Related links

Scholarships and bursaries 2015-16 (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/courses/scholarships-bursaries.aspx)

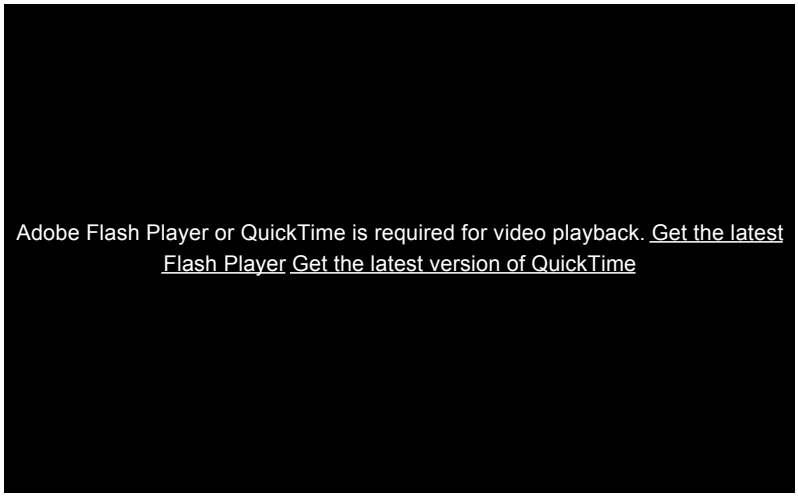
Learning and teaching

We advocate an enquiry-based approach to learning, which means that we encourage you to become an independent and self-motivated learner. Through the programme of study we offer, we will develop the qualities that employers value in today's university graduates - qualities that will set you apart in your future career.

To help you develop the above-mentioned skills, we adopt a range of teaching methods. They may include:

- **Lectures** - listening to experts sharing their knowledge and discoveries in challenging and provocative ways. Students are expected to 'read-around' the subject matter of their lectures, adding to their understanding and developing their critical faculties and analytical skills.
- **Seminars** - where you present and discuss your ideas and knowledge in smaller groups and debate interpretations and opinions with other students.
- **Tutorials** - are your opportunity to discuss your work with your tutor, usually in small groups.
- **Workshops** - are problem solving sessions facilitated by a member of academic staff; these sessions usually involve students working in groups.

Our lecturers and tutors will ensure you have all the resources you need to make the transition from A levels to the more rigorous demands of a degree.



More about **teaching and learning (/students/teaching/index.aspx)** at the University of Birmingham.

Enhancing your Student Experience

In the School of Government and Society we offer much more than a degree. As a student here, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, **you have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of events (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx)**, with some or all of the costs paid for by the School.

Some of these are targeted to help you build skills and experience for your CV, others are more open events designed to expose you to high-level speakers on current debates relevant to all Government and Society students.

Mathew Clarke, Hamburg MUN (December 2012) (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/student-profiles/postgraduate/polsis/mathew-clarke-hamburg-mun.aspx), "In December 2012 I went to Hamburg to take part in a Model United Nations (MUN) Conference with the MUN Society at the University. The experience was eye opening allowing me see how to apply the topics I had learnt at Birmingham to a real world event. While I had been to other non-MUN conferences, which were not with the university, both in the UK and around the world this was a truly unique event."

Ana Alecsandru, UNA Youth Conference - New Nuclear Realities (February 2013) (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/student-profiles/postgraduate/polsis/ana-alecsandru-una-youth-conference.aspx), "This event allowed me to gain an insight into the challenges

facing the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. The programme included interactive discussions with high profile nuclear professionals regarding the current situation of the international non-proliferation regime and the nuclear disarmament under the auspices of the United Nations and IAEA."

Georgiana Chiriac, Harvard Model United Nations (February 2013) (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/student-profiles/postgraduate/idd/georgiana-chiriac-havard-mun.aspx), "Overall, This opportunity was excellent for me and for the entire delegation in terms of gaining knowledge and expertise at the highest level, as well as with regards to personal growth and development."

Read more of our **students' experiences and profiles (/schools/government-society/teaching/student-profiles/index.aspx)** on the school website.

Facilities

Departments from across the School of Government and Society are all based within the recently refurbished Muirhead Tower. Following a £50million refurbishment, Muirhead Tower offers **state-of-the-art teaching and research study facilities** including free wifi throughout the building and dedicated study areas for postgraduate research students.

If you can see this message rather than a virtual tour then please click here to install the adobe flash player.
If you are still unable to view the virtual tour then you may need to enable javascript in your browser (click here for instructions).
If you are still experiencing problems then please email Revolution Viewing at support@revolutionviewing.com

Muirhead Tower comprises 12,000sq.m of floor space between two towers. The tower includes a number of sustainable features including solar shading (known in the trade as brise soliel) to control temperatures, as well as low energy fans; timed lighting to reduce energy waste; natural ventilation systems and a heat source taken from the University's combined heat and power generator.

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If you are still experiencing problems then please email Revolution Viewing at support@revolutionviewing.com

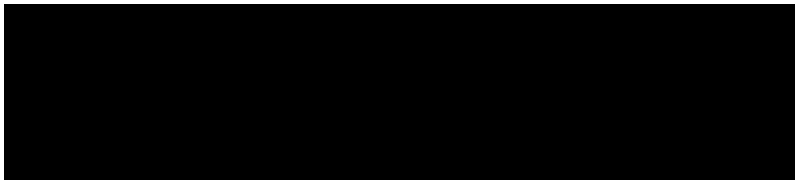
The space has been designed to create modern, **attractive spaces for teaching and research** accommodating 150 academic offices, 230 "hubs" for post graduate research students, teaching rooms for up to 100 people and a 200 seat lecture theatre.

Employability

Graduates from the School have gone on to work in a range of careers, with recent graduates working with organisations such as the United Nations, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, local authorities in the UK and overseas and the Department for International Development.

The School takes employability very seriously and as well as linking students to the central careers services, also incorporates opportunities to enhance their employment prospects, including highlighting work experience opportunities, encouraging volunteering in extra-curricular projects (such as student seminars and events) and by inviting backgrounds for students to meet.

More information about careers and employability (/students/careers/careers-and-employability.aspx)



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Careers Support for Work Experience and Internships

The Careers and Employability Centre provides a dedicated service to help you find work experience or internship opportunities outside of your studies, either part-time during term-time, or over the summer vacation. Right from the start of your degree you will have access to our interactive careers service, through which many regional, national and international employers advertise their vacancies, and your college internship officers will go out and about to find vacancies that will be a useful addition to your CV.

Ever wondered what it would be like to work in a New York Theatre? Interested in working in the city? Fancy travelling to India to take part in a project to promote urban cycling? Interested in public diplomacy, economics, media relations or PR, journalism or international affairs? The University of Birmingham offers a range of work experience bursaries, where you can apply for up to £9,000 to help fund work experience or an internship, a research placement, or volunteering, anywhere in the world during the summer vacation. The funding can help you pay for accommodation costs, travel expenses, or living costs, and will help you rise above the competition.

Through our mentoring scheme, we also provide students in any year of undergraduate study with the opportunity to be mentored by successful Birmingham graduates from a diverse range of career backgrounds, such as marketing, finance, politics, and international affairs. In your final year of study you can also apply to be part of our Alumni Leadership Mentoring programme, and receive one-to-one mentoring from high-profile Birmingham alumni. This year's mentors include Martin Devenish, Partner and Managing Director at Goldman Sachs, and Mike Coupe, a director at J Sainsbury's.

Find out more about support for **work experience and internships, bursaries, or mentoring (/generic/internships/index.aspx)** .

Funding for work placements, research placements and internships (/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2012/01/funding-work-placements-research-internships.aspx) The Careers and Employability Centre offer a range of award schemes for students from a range of backgrounds that are looking to undertake a variety of work experience placements and internships .

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