UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification 2018–2019

Global Corporations and Policy

MSc

Important document – please read

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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

About this document

Last revised 25 July 2018

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

The relevant General Regulations and the Programme Regulations relating to your registration with us are for the current year and not in the year in which you initially registered.

On all matters where the regulations are to be interpreted, or are silent, our decision will be final.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Global Corporations and Policy programme:

Module: Individual units of the programmes are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Elective modules: Pathway specific optional modules that are studied in succession after the core module(s).

Dissertation Development Stage: A learning stage that follows each module which develops the skills needed to write and submit a final dissertation.

Module Convenor: Programme team member who ensures that design and delivery of high quality learning opportunities are available for students on the module.

Associate Tutor: Programme team member who delivers small group teaching, or may be used for their specialist expertise to deliver lectures or lead seminars.

E-tivity: online assessment prepared in response to a task or tasks specified by the Programme Director.

Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually. The quality committee of SOAS, University of London, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Where changes have been made which may impact on continuing students, these are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Significant changes made to the programme specification 2018-2019:

No significant changes

Programme title and name of awards

Award name

Global Corporations and Policy

Award titles

Students are registered on:

- Master of Science in Global Corporations and Policy

Exit awards

- Postgraduate Diploma in Global Corporations and Policy
- Postgraduate Certificate in Global Corporations and Policy

Students who for academic or personal reasons are unable to complete the 180 credits required for the MSc award may exit with the successful completion of 120 or 60 credits and be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate respectively. Exit awards are granted at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit award they will not be permitted to continue their study of the same award with the International Programmes.

Short courses

There is no provision for individual modules of the programme to be studied on a stand-alone basis.

Level of the programmes

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA).

The awards are placed at the following Levels of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ):

- Master of Science (MSc)   Level 7
- Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) (exit award)   Level 7
- Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) (exit award)   Level 7

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group(s)

Not applicable

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

www.london.ac.uk

University of London

Academic direction

SOAS, University of London through the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy (CISD)

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

Not applicable

Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Flexible and online study. Supported by an individual personal tutor and dedicated Associate Tutor for each module.

Programme structures

The MSc Global Corporations and Policy is consists of four modules and a dissertation as follows:

- One core module

- Two elective modules chosen from a list of options

- A dissertation.

Where possible, students must study the core modules in the first two study sessions before moving onto the elective modules. All assessments for each module must normally be submitted before a student may progress to a subsequent module.

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in the Programme Regulations.

Credit value of modules

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is provided by the Quality Assurance Agency and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System.

Where credits are assigned to each module of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (FHEQ) credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

For the Global Corporations and Policy programme, credits are assigned to the modules as follows:

- 30 UK credits or 15 ECTS credits at FHEQ Level 7 for the core and elective modules.

- 60 UK credits or 30 ECTS credits at FHEQ Level 7 for the dissertation module.

A student awarded the MSc will have accumulated **180 UK credits** or 90 ECTS credits.

One UK credit equates to a notional ten hours of learning.

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The maximum and minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

	Minimum	Maximum
MSc degree	Two years	Five years

Study materials are made available after registration and on payment of the applicable fee.

Recognition of prior learning

Within this programme there is no provision for recognition or accreditation of prior learning.

Entrance requirements

Postgraduate entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the website.

Entrance requirements for postgraduate awards vary. Full details are provided on the programme page under the Entrance Requirements tab.

> Details of the programme specific requirements are given on the programme page, under the Requirements tab
>
> See https://www.soas.ac.uk/cisd/programmes/msc-global-corporations-and-policy-online/ for details of the application process.

English language requirements

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under the Requirements tab.

Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission the University may, at its discretion, consider the application.

Internet access and computer specification

Students will require regular access to a computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems.

The computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser with Cookies and JavaScript enabled (a latest version of Firefox or Chrome is recommended);
- a good internet connection;

And the following applications installed:

- a word processor that accepts Microsoft Word formats (.doc and .docx);
- a pdf reader.

Students with access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies. The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may need access arrangements to assist in taking examinations, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the Inclusive Practice Manager. A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see Inclusive Practice Policy

Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For further information see www.london.ac.uk/distance-and-flexible-learning/funding-your-study.

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

Learning outcomes of the programmes:

The programme takes an integrated approach to knowledge, intellectual, practical and transferrable skills. As such the educational aims are as follows:

- The ability to acquire knowledge, understanding, skills and aptitudes necessary to proceed to careers in cross-cultural and international professional contexts relating to the political and economic management and regulation of Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

- The ability to acquire the interdisciplinary knowledge to undertake further advanced studies in the area of the international management and regulation of global capitalism and specifically in relation to multinational corporations and global public policy.

- High quality research training and enhanced key skills and employability.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programmes andthe learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More

detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content and the learning and teaching and assessment methods of each module can be found on the [SOAS website](#).

Subject specific – knowledge and understanding

Students who successfully complete the MSc Global Corporations and Policy will:

- gain an in-depth critical understanding of the nature and development of MNE organisations.

- develop an advanced understanding of changes in the international patterns of production and the inherently political nature of international production processes and organisation.

- gain a sound grounding in policy and regulatory problems created by the operations of MNEs and their impact on changing international patterns of production, and a critical understanding of these in the light of competing legal and economic theories of the organisation and activities of MNEs.

- develop a detailed knowledge and critical awareness of principal social, political, macroeconomic and environmental effects of MNE operations.

- gain a systematic and critical understanding of the fundamentals of corporate and political management strategies.

- develop an in-depth understanding of the theory and practice of the management of change across private and public sector institutions with regard to the role of MNEs in the global economy, and the ability to design and assess solutions to management, policy and regulatory issues created by the operations of MNEs and their impact on changing international patterns of production.
- gain a sound grounding in the economic and legal techniques and methodologies applicable to research activities in the area of MNE organisation, impact and regulation.

Intellectual and transferable skills:

Students who successfully complete the MSc Global Corporations and Policy will:

- develop intellectual initiative and will be albe to analyse, evaluate and reflect critically on policy and scholarly research with regard to the core knowledge and understanding targets of the programme.

- view the development of MNE organisation, operations and impacts as an evolving and changing process.

- discriminate between competing economic and legal theories of MNE strategies, activities and regulation, and their concomitant methodologies.

- apply detailed knowledge about MNEs' principal social, political, macroeconomic and environmental impact to ongoing policy debates about reforms of international business regulation, and its interaction with national and sub-national policy and regulatory frameworks.

- develop original argument and research (e.g. case studies) on MNE activities, strategies, impact and regulation.

- apply acquired knowledge of corporate and political management issues and techniques across the private, public and non-governmental sectors.

- analyse, evaluate and reflect critically on information received.

- develop and present new ideas coherently and concisely, orally and in writing, extracting key elements from complex information.

- research core issues independently.

- identify and solve problems, selecting and applying competing theories and methodologies appropriately.

- gather, organise and deploy data and evidence to form balanced judgements and to develop and support critical argument and policy recommendations.

- present written and oral materials clearly and effectively and to engage constructively with feedback.

- engage in lateral thinking across different academic disciplines, types of arguments, evidence and methodologies.

- take key decisions in complex and unpredictable situations.

- work creatively, flexibly and co-operatively with others and to delegate responsibility.

- assess and evaluate own and other's work constructively.

- address organisational obstacles and crises effectively.

- formulate and meet team objectives.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

Students learn on this programme by engaging with academically rigorous and up-to-date learning materials and resources in a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). For each module, students will be provided with access, through the University of London Online Library, to all necessary reading materials from a range of appropriate sources, as well as having access to the relevant journals and academic databases subscribed to by the University.

To help a student to organise their time, a bespoke Study Timetable is provided for each module and for the overall programme. This sets out the timetable for their learning and assessment. The programme and the modules themselves are carefully designed to allow students to progress according to their own learning styles. Modules are run over two six-monthly periods, in conjunction with the ongoing study of the dissertation. Each module lasts 16 weeks, followed by one of the four stages of the dissertation module.

The VLE will give students instant access to current module materials, including the assessment tasks known as "e-tivities", electronic journals and other materials provided online by the Online Library. Students will have a direct link to their dedicated Associate

Tutor who will be the main point of contact between SOAS and the student. The Associate Tutor will facilitate student learning by helping students to structure their learning and by being available to assist students with any questions that they may have about the academic content of the programme. A member of the administrative staff is also available to answer questions about the administrative aspects of the student's studies. A technical team may also be called upon to help with any difficulties in accessing the VLE. A key component of the student experience will be peer to peer learning, and so students will be enrolled in bespoke discussion forums.

Each module, with the exception of the dissertation, has six online assessments (e-tivities), which take the form of written work prepared in response to a task or tasks specified by the Programme Director. E-tivity 6 for all modules (except the dissertation module) is a 4,500-5,000 word assignment submitted online.

The e-tivities provide formative and, in the case of e-tivites 2-6, summative feedback to students, highlighting areas in which they can improve. E-tivites also act as a means of monitoring student progress. Timely and concise feedback for each e-tivity will be provided by either the Module Convenor or the assigned Associate Tutor, as appropriate. The Global Corporations and Policy Board of Examiners will be the final arbiter of the above regulations and a student's completion of these criteria.

Students will also undertake a dissertation that relates to the subject. The dissertation module is divided into four dissertation development stages; one stage is completed at the end of each module. Appropriate research methods are taught in each of the four stages to allow completion of the module as a whole through the submission of the dissertation. At the end of the second stage, students submit a research proposal counting for 15 % and at the end of the fourth stage their dissertation counting for 85% of the overall module mark.

The purpose of this is to enable the student to develop and demonstrate their capacity to carry out a substantial piece of independent academic work on a selected topic.
Students will be assessed on their capacity to define a topic, to articulate a coherent scheme for examining the topic, to gather necessary information and to analyse and present this information in a way that satisfactorily assesses the topic.

Assessment criteria for the programme take into account the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Assessment methods

Both the core and elective modules are assessed through a series of e-tivities culminating in the online submission of a written assessment, e-tivitiy 6, of 4,500-5,000 words (excluding footnotes, endnotes, bibliography and figures). E-tivities 2, 3, 4 and 5 have word counts between 400 and 1,500 words and are also submitted online. Of the six e-tivities, e-tivity 1 is assessed solely through formative assessment, e-tivities 2-6 carry either 5, 15 or 70 marks but also provide for formative assessment and feedback.

The dissertation is assessed by the submission of a written dissertation of approximately 15,000 words, excluding the bibliography and appendices, which will account for 85% of the mark awarded for the module. The remaining 15% of the module mark will be based on the mark obtained for a 1,500 word research proposal.

Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the website.

Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE): This gives access to materials (including lessons, activities and assignments) for each module studied.

- Module subject guides for each module studied; these introduce and develop the topics.

- Online student discussion areas – which allow students to communicate with each other

- Programme Regulations.

- The Online Library: This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.

- University of London library: Registered students may use the resources located within the Senate House library.

- Employability skills module – guidance on how to manage your career in the future, available through the VLE.

- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London collaborates with the member institutions to deliver the University of London programmes. The policies, partnerships and systems are defined within the key documents: The Quality Framework, the Quality Assurance Schedules, Guidelines for Examinations, General Regulations and, for each programme, programme specific regulations.

Parity of award standards

Every programme of study is developed by a member institution of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one member institution) to the same standards as would be applied in the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement, are in place.

Learning materials are written and examinations are set and marked by academic staff who apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Procedures are in place to assure the standards of the award and the quality of the student experience, which include programme development, delivery, management, systematic monitoring and ongoing review and enhancement of all University of London programmes. Improvements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

- Annual programme reports are produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Every year independent external examiners submit reports to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student information statistics are produced and are referenced in all systematic reporting within the University of London;
- Periodic programme reviews are carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and up-to-date.

Student feedback mechanisms

The Student Experience Survey, carried out every two years, collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are considered in a number of different ways, including by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the programme team, principal committees and departments at the University of London responsible for the different aspects of the student experience. Once the findings have been considered in detail, responses are published from both the University of London and from the individual Programme Directors.

Additional survey activity may also be conducted from time to time through the student portal, by email or from the programme team.

VLEs also provide the opportunity for informal feedback and discussion.

An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found at https://london.ac.uk/current-students/getting-involved

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme can allow students to progress to a higher level award in the subject area.

Graduate employment routes

Students who choose to study with CISD do so as it provides them with an opportunity to merge a strong theoretical understanding with equally rigorous practical skills that equip them to go out into the workforce with both knowledge and the ability to deliver. CISD use an intricate combination of SOAS expertise, cutting edge research and practical skills which makes its students attractive to employers.

CISD programmes provide sound intellectual and skills training, which are useful for analysing and designing solutions to many of today's global problems. Graduating students have gone on to a variety of professions where they have been able to utilise the knowledge and skills they learned while studying at the Centre.

The Alumni Network

Upon graduation, students automatically become members of the University of London Alumni Network, a diverse worldwide community of alumni in more than 180 countries. The Alumni Network can provide past students with lifelong links to the University of London and each other. Benefits include social and networking events, access to local groups, a bi-annual magazine, social networking groups, and the opportunity to become an Alumni Ambassador for the University of London.

For further information, please see https://london.ac.uk/alumni, www.facebook.com/londonualumni, www.instagram.com/_londonu and https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-london/