



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

Programme Regulations 2017–18

Muslim Minorities in a Global Context

MA

Important document – please read
This document contains important
information that governs your
registration, assessment and
programme of study



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Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

Last revised 23.05.2017

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

These Programme Regulations are designed and developed by SOAS, University of London which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The regulations take account of any associated arrangements at SOAS, University of London. Programme Regulations, together with the [Programme Handbook](#), will provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study. Further information about how to use the Programme Regulations and Programme Handbook can be found in the [Student Guide](#).

In addition to Programme Regulations you will have to abide by the [General Regulations](#). These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the International Academy and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes; they also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary. Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

Further information about your programme of study is outlined in the Programme Specification which is available on the relevant Courses page of the website. The Programme Specification gives a broad overview of the structure and content of the programme as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Muslim Minorities in a Global Context programme:

Module: Individual units of the programme are called course or module. Each unit 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.

Throughout the Regulations, 'we' 'us' and 'our' mean the University of London; 'you' and 'your' mean the student, or where applicable, all students.

An online [Glossary](#) provides an explanation of other terms used here and on the website.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided please contact us. You should use the *ask a question* tab in the student portal <https://my.londoninternational.ac.uk>.

Changes to MA Muslim Minorities in a Global Context Regulations 2017-18

No significant changes.

1 Registration

Effective date of registration

1.1

Your effective date of registration will be **1 April** if you register in March/April, or **1 October** if you register in September/October, of the year in which you initially register..

1.2

Your effective date of registration allows you to be assessed at the next opportunity:

- August of the same year if you register in April *or*
- February of the following year if you register in October.

Period of registration

See the [Programme Specification](#) for the minimum and maximum periods of registration applicable to this programme.

See [Glossary](#) for the definition of 'effective date of registration'.

2 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

To be read in conjunction with the [General Regulations](#), Section 3.

Recognition of prior learning

2.1

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

3 Module selection

[Appendix A](#) provides details of the programme structures and module titles.

3.1

You may normally only register for one module per study session. Modules are normally run in two sessions throughout the year, each comprising 16 weeks of study. In exceptional circumstances and having shown sufficient progression in the programme, you may apply to the Programme Director to study two modules in one session. The core module, Muslim Minorities in a Global Context, will run in every session. Other modules will run subject to availability.

3.2

You may apply to change your assigned module in consultation with the Programme Director up to two weeks before the start date for that module. If you have already begun studying the module your application will not be considered.

4 Assessment for the programme

4.1

See [Glossary](#) for the definition of 'Assessment'

Assessment methods for the MA degree

Each module, with the exception of the dissertation module, will be assessed by the completion of six e-tivities. E-tivity 6 will be assessed by the completion of a 4500-5000-word essay submitted through Turnitin to a fixed deadline following a 16 week study session.

4.2

The dissertation module will be assessed by submission of a 1500-word dissertation proposal and the submission of a written dissertation, of approximately 15000 words, excluding the bibliography and appendices. The overall mark for the dissertation module will be based on the combined marks for the dissertation and the research proposal, scaled to account for, respectively, 85% and 15% of the overall mark for the module.

4.3

You are required to complete the e-tivities, the four dissertation development stages and submit both elements of assessment to complete the dissertation module.

4.4

E-tivities must not be longer than the word limits stated in the instructions for the e-tivity:

- The word count does not include footnotes (provided they contain a reference and are not part of the assessment), endnotes, bibliography and figures.
- Tables which contain text will be included in the total word count; tables which contain numerical data will not.

If an assignment exceeds the word limit by the amounts specified below, the Associate Tutor/Module Convenor will implement the following deductions. For **e-tivities 2, 3 and 5** for all subject modules, the following deductions will apply:

Excess length	Mark Deduction
Up to and including 30%	1 mark
More than 30%	The work may be submitted and will be accepted. It will not be marked and will be assigned a mark of 0

For **e-tivity 4** and **e-tivity 6** for all subject modules, the **dissertation proposal** and the final **dissertation**, the following schedule of deductions will apply:

Excess Length	Mark Deduction (deductions for dissertation given in parentheses)
Up to and including 10%	1 mark (5 percentage points)
More than 10% up to and including 20%	2 marks (10 percentage points)
More than 20% up to and including 30%	3 marks (15 percentage points)
More than 30%	The work may be submitted and will be accepted. It will not be marked and will be assigned a mark of 0

Submission of e-tivities and the Dissertation

4.5

Your completed e-tivities must be submitted via the Virtual Learning Environment no later than the submission dates given on the module timetables

4.6

E-tivities submitted after the published deadline will be penalised: Marks will be deducted at a rate of one mark per day to a maximum of 5 marks for e-tivities submitted up to 5 days after the deadline. E-tivities will not be accepted if submitted later than 5 days after the deadline.

4.7

There is no procedure for extensions.

Where you have provided evidence of mitigating circumstances, penalties for late submission of e-tivities (submitted up to 5 days after the deadline) may be waived, subject to approval by the Programme Director.

4.8

With each e-tivity you must accept the No Plagiarism declaration via the online submission procedure to confirm that the completed e-tivity is all your own work (except where the terms of the e-tivity require collaboration with others) and that there has been no plagiarism.

4.9

It is your responsibility to retain a copy of your e-tivity in the event of any electronic difficulties in its submission to, or return from, us.

4.10

We will provide you with feedback on all of your e-tivities across all of your modules.

4.11

You are strongly advised to work with your appointed supervisor in the preparation of your dissertation. Full details of the responsibility of the supervisor, including the responsibility to review draft chapters, will be provided as part of your learning materials following registration on the dissertation module.

4.12

If you are submitting a **dissertation** you must submit an electronic copy of the completed dissertation via the Virtual Learning Environment, to arrive not later than the relevant submission deadline.

5 Number of attempts permitted at an examination

5.1

The maximum number of assessed attempts permitted at e-tivity 4 or e-tivity 6 for each module is **two**. For all other e-tivities, a third attempt may be permitted at the discretion of the Programme Director, and subject to any mitigating circumstances.

5.2

If you wish to interrupt your study of a module we may carry forward the mark for any e-tivity already completed for that module. This will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

5.3

If you submit a **dissertation** that is otherwise adequate but requires minor amendment, the Examiners may require you to make any amendments specified by them and to re-submit the dissertation within a period of **four** weeks, unless otherwise specified by them. This is still counted as your first attempt. If the dissertation is failed completely, you will be required to submit a new dissertation proposal within a period of **four** weeks. Submission of the final dissertation will be required within a period determined by us, normally within six months of the submission of the new dissertation proposal.

6 Progression within the programme

See [section 4](#) for method of assessment.

6.1

You are required to study the core module, '*Muslim Minorities in a Global Context*' during the first study session following your registration on the programme. You will then be expected to complete the three elective modules during the following study sessions. Elective modules may not all be offered at every study session and may be studied in any order.

6.2

You must attempt and pass e-tivity 6 of a module before you progress to your next module.

6.3

You must attempt all e-tivities of a module. If you submit e-tivity 6 for a module for which you have an incomplete e-tivity record we may determine that you have not completed the module's assessment requirements and you will receive no mark for e-tivity 6.

6.4

The dissertation module is presented in four development stages, which will follow each of your module sessions, and you must complete each stage to pass the dissertation. The fourth and final stage of the dissertation module will include a dedicated writing-up period prior to submission of the dissertation.

6.5

You will be expected to submit your dissertation proposal before attempting your third elective module.

Transfer from the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma

6.6

The Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma are provided as exit awards only, awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and only in circumstances where you are unable to fulfil

the criteria for the award of the MA. There is no provision for progression from the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma to the MA.

6.7

If you accept a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma as an exit award we will not permit you to register or re-register for the related MA at a later date.

7 Schemes of award

7.1

Modules are marked according to the following scales:

Mark range	
70+	Distinction
60-69	Merit
50-59	Pass
0-49	Fail

7.2

To calculate the mark for a subject module, the combined marks for the e-tivities 2, 3, 4 and 5, comprising 30% of the module mark, are added to the mark obtained for e-tivity 6, which is scaled to 70%.

The maximum marks available for e-tivities 1 to 5 are as follows:

- E-tivity 1: Access and socialisation – 0
- E-tivity 2: Library information retrieval – 5
- E-tivity 3: Literature critique (directed) – 5
- E-tivity 4: Essay proposal – 15
- E-tivity 5: Literature critique (bespoke) – 5

7.3

In order to pass any module, including the dissertation, you must achieve an overall mark of at least 50%.

7.4

The mark received for a re-submitted e-tivity 6 for all modules will be capped at 50%. The mark received for a resubmitted e-tivity 4 will be capped at 7.5.

7.5

For the dissertation module, the marks obtained for the dissertation proposal and final written dissertation, appropriately scaled, are combined to produce the overall mark for the module. The final dissertation is marked out of 100 and is scaled to account for 85% of the module grade. The dissertation proposal is marked out of 15 and will account for the remaining 15% of the grade.

7.6

The mark awarded for a dissertation which failed at the first attempt will be capped at 50%.

7.7

For the award of the MA in Muslim Minorities in a Global Context, you must have attempted and passed all four modules and the dissertation.

7.8

To calculate the final grade, all modules, with the exception of the dissertation module, are weighted equally. The dissertation is double weighted.

7.9

In order to be considered for the award of:

- Merit - you must obtain a mark of 50% or more in each module, a mark of 60% or more for the dissertation **and** a weighted average mark of 60% across all modules.
- Distinction - you must obtain a mark of 60% or more in each module, a mark of 70% or more for the dissertation **and** a weighted average of at least 70% across all modules.

See [Appendix B](#) for information on how to achieve a particular mark.

Exit awards

7.10

At the discretion of the Board of Examiners and only in circumstances where you are unable to fulfil the criteria for the MA, an exit award may be awarded as follows:

- Postgraduate Certificate for successful completion of two modules and two dissertation development stages;
- Postgraduate Diploma for successful completion of four modules and four dissertation development stages.

Appendix A – Structure of the programme

A detailed outline of the module syllabus is provided on the [CISD](#) course page.

MA in Muslim Minorities in a Global Context

One compulsory core module:

GDM115 [Muslim Minorities in a Global Context](#)

+

Three subject modules chosen from:

GDM250 [Introduction to Islam](#)

GDM255 [Muslim Minorities and the State: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives](#)

GDM260 [Islamic Law in Global Context](#)

GDM265 [Religions and Development](#)

GDM010 [Art of Negotiation](#)

GDM135 [Global Public Policy](#)

GDM130 [International Security](#)

GDM120 [Strategic Studies](#)

GDM160 [Global Diplomacy: Citizenship & Advocacy](#)

GDM196 [Political Islam in South Asia](#)

GDM190 [Contemporary India: State, Society and Politics](#)

+

One compulsory dissertation module:

GDM200 [Dissertation](#)

Appendix B – Assessment criteria

These guidelines reflect the standards of work expected at postgraduate level.

The following criteria will be used in determining the marks awarded for the final written **dissertation**. The same criteria will be used in assessing the standard of work achieved for **e-tivity 4 and e-tivity 6** for all modules and for the **dissertation proposal**. The dissertation and e-tivity 6 are marked out of 100 and the dissertation proposal and e-tivity 4 are marked out of 15 and scaled accordingly.

Distinction 80+ / 15

A mark of 80+ will fulfil the following criteria:

- very significant ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment;
- very significant ability to evaluate literature and theory critically and make informed judgements;
- very high levels of creativity, originality and independence of thought;
- very significant ability to evaluate critically existing methodologies and suggest new approaches to current research or professional practice;
- very significant ability to analyse data critically;
- outstanding levels of accuracy, technical competence, organisation, expression.

Distinction 70-79 / 12-14

A mark in the range 70-79 will fulfil the following criteria:

- significant ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment;
- clear evidence of wide and relevant reading, referencing and an engagement with the conceptual issues;
- capacity to develop a sophisticated and intelligent argument;
- rigorous use and a sophisticated understanding of relevant source materials, balancing appropriately between factual detail and key theoretical issues. Materials are evaluated directly and their assumptions and arguments challenged and/or appraised;
- correct referencing;
- significant ability to analyse data critically;
- original thinking and a willingness to take risks.

Merit 60-69 / 10-11

A mark in the 60-69 range will fulfil the following criteria:

- ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment;
- strong evidence of critical insight and thinking;
- a detailed understanding of the major factual and/or theoretical issues and directly engages with the relevant literature on the topic;
- clear evidence of planning and appropriate choice of sources and methodology with correct referencing;
- ability to analyse data critically;
- capacity to develop a focussed and clear argument and articulate clearly and convincingly a sustained train of logical thought.

Pass 50-59 / 7.5-9

A mark in the range 50-59 will fulfil the following criteria:

- Ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment;
- a reasonable understanding of the major factual and/or theoretical issues involved;
- evidence of some knowledge of the literature with correct referencing;
- ability to analyse data;
- shows examples of a clear train of thought or argument;
- the text is introduced and concludes appropriately.

Fail 40-49 / 6-7.49

A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is:

- limited ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment;
- some awareness and understanding of the literature and of factual or theoretical issues, but with little development;
- limited ability to analyse data;
- incomplete referencing;
- limited ability to present a clear and coherent argument.

Fail 20-39 / 3-5

A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is:

- very limited ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment;
- fails to develop a coherent argument that relates to the research project or assignment;
- does not engage with the relevant literature or demonstrate a knowledge of the key issues;
- incomplete referencing;
- contains clear conceptual or factual errors or misunderstandings;
- only fragmentary evidence of critical thought or data analysis.

Fail 0-19 / 0-2

A Fail will be awarded in cases which:

- no demonstrable ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment;
- little or no knowledge or understanding related to the research project or assignment;
- little or no knowledge of the relevant literature;
- major errors in referencing;
- no evidence of critical thought or data analysis;
- incoherent argument.

The following criteria will be used in determining the marks awarded for e-tivities 2, 3 and 5 for each subject module:

5/5

- Thorough critical analysis of a range of arguments from a wide literature (e.g. considers criticisms and defences of positions discussed and provides a clear and convincing position of own view derived from this discussion)
- Concise and well-structured
- Provides original arguments (e.g. makes original connection to wider academic debates, formulates an innovative criticism/defence)
- Very clear expression

4/5

- Broad understanding of topic
- Refers to relevant wider literature
- Engagement with academic debate on topic
- Well written
- Appropriate structure
- Some critical analysis with arguments (is able to consider criticisms and defences of positions discussed)

3/5

- Relevant answer to topic
- Satisfactory understanding and broadly accurate understanding
- Proper referencing
- Clear expression

2/5

- Limited relevance to topic
- Partial/incomplete understanding
- Unclear expression
- Poor referencing

1/5

- Submitted according to instructions
- Shows basic academic skills such as locating relevant articles through appropriate search tools such Library catalogue
- Errors in understanding
- Absence of analysis

0/5

- Failure to submit in accordance with instructions
- Unable to illustrate basic academic skills in any meaningful capacity.
- Absence of understanding