### Part A: Programme Summary Information

1. **Title of programme:** MA (International Relations and Security)

2. **Programme Code:** POIR

3. **Entry Award(s):**
   - **MA:** 180 credits, Level 7, of which up to 30 credits may be at Level 6
   - **PGDip:**
   - **PGCert:**
   - **PG Award:**
   - **DPS:**
   - **CPS:**
   - **Other (please specify below):**

4. **Exit Awards:**
   - **PGDip:** 120 credits, Level 7 (of which 30 credits may be at Level 6)
   - **PGCert:** 60 credits, Level 7 (of which 15 credits may be at Level 6)
   - **PG Award:** 30 credits, Level 7 (of which 15 credits may be at Level 6)
   - **CPS:**

Exit awards will automatically bear the name of the entry award. If an exit award is to be unnamed (i.e. it will show only the qualification achieved) or
if it is to have a different name from the entry qualification you must indicate this below:

| N/A |

5. **Date of first intake:**
   - September 2007

6. **Frequency of intake:**
   - Annually, in September

7. **Duration and mode of study:**
   - Full-time, 1 year
   - Part-time, 2 years

8. **Applicable framework:**
   - University Framework for Postgraduate Modular Provision

   **Framework exemption required:**
   - ☒ No (please go to section 9)
   - ☐ Yes (please provide a brief summary below)

   **Date exemption approved by AQSC:**
   - N/A

9. **Applicable Ordinance:**
   - Ordinance 52(A) (general ordinance for modular Master's degrees, postgraduate diplomas and postgraduate certificates)

   **New/revised Ordinance required:**
   - ☒ No (please go to section 10)
   - ☐ Yes (please provide a brief summary below)

   **Date new/revised Ordinance approved by Council:**
   - N/A

10. **Faculty:**
    - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

11. **Level 2 School/Institute:**
    - School of Histories, Languages and Cultures

12. **Level 1 unit:**
    - Department of Politics

13. **Campus:**
    - Liverpool

14. **Other contributors from UoL:**
    - Communication and Media
    - Geography
    - Irish Studies
    - Law

15. **Teaching other than at UoL:**
    - N/A
### Part B: Programme Aims & Objectives

#### Aims of the Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Aim:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>To equip students with the necessary empirical knowledge and analytical tools to study international relations at an advanced level;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>To foster an awareness of the key methodological approaches utilised in the study of international relations;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>To explore the relationship between theory, history and contemporary developments in the international sphere, particularly with regard to security issues;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>To develop students’ research, written and oral skills, with particular reference to the study of international relations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Learning Outcomes

### Learning outcomes – Master’s degree

In terms of **knowledge and understanding**, students will have acquired:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>An advanced understanding of a specific international relations topic (or topics) and/or region (or regions) of the world in which the student has an interest in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Advanced expertise in a variety of significant topics in the sphere of international relations and security.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of **cognitive skills**, students will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Apply research methods in the field of social sciences to the study of international relations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Critically assess key concepts in the literature on international relations and security studies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of **professional and practical skills**, students will have acquired:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Advanced ability to apply concepts in the field of international relations and security studies to the analysis of contemporary developments in the international sphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Advanced understanding of the dynamics of contemporary international relations in one (or more) region(s) of the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Learning outcomes – Postgraduate Diploma

In terms of **knowledge and understanding**, students will have acquired:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>An advanced understanding of a specific international relations topic (or topics) and/or region (or regions) of the world in which the student has an interest in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Advanced expertise in a variety of significant topics in the sphere of international relations and security.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of **cognitive skills**, students will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Critically assess key concepts in the literature on international relations and security studies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of **professional and practical skills**, students will have acquired:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ability to apply key concepts in the field of international relations and security studies to the analysis of contemporary developments in the international sphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Advanced understanding of dynamics of contemporary international relations in one (or more) region(s) of the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning Outcomes

No. Learning outcomes – Postgraduate Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Learning outcomes – Postgraduate Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In terms of <strong>knowledge and understanding</strong>, students will have acquired:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>An advanced understanding of a specific international relations topic (or topics) and/or region (or regions) of the world in which the student has an interest in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Expertise in a variety of significant topics in the sphere of international relations and security.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|     | In terms of **cognitive skills**, students will be able to: |
| 4   | Critically assess key concepts in the literature on international relations and security studies. |

|     | In terms of **professional and practical skills**, students will have acquired: |
| 6   | Understanding of the dynamics of contemporary international relations in one (or more) region(s) of the world. |

Learning Outcomes

No. Learning outcomes – Postgraduate Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Learning outcomes – Postgraduate Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In terms of <strong>knowledge and understanding</strong>, students will have acquired:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Expertise in the sphere of international relations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|     | In terms of **cognitive skills**, students will have acquired: |
| 4   | Critically assess key concepts in the literature on international relations and security studies. |

27a. **Mapping of subject-based learning outcomes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcome No.</th>
<th>Module(s) in which this will be delivered</th>
<th>Mode of assessing achievement of learning outcome</th>
<th>PSRB/Subject benchmark statement (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>POLI 131; POLI 132</td>
<td>Essay/Presentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>POLI 131; All optional modules</td>
<td>Essay/Presentation/Exam (some optional modules)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>POLI 116; POLI 119</td>
<td>Essay/Presentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>POLI 131; POLI 132; POLI &amp; IRIS optional modules</td>
<td>Essay/Presentation/Exam (POLI 303)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Mode of assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>POLI 131; POLI 132; POLI &amp; IRIS optional modules</td>
<td>Essay/ Presentation/ Exam (POLI 303)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Mode of assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>POLI 131; All optional modules</td>
<td>Essay/ Presentation/ Exam (some optional modules)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28. Skills and Other Attributes

Skills and attributes:

On completion of the degree, students will have acquired the following key skills:

1. An advanced understanding of the key issues and concepts in the fields of international relations and security;

2. An expertise in specific topics of significance in the fields of international relations and security studies and;

3. An ability to critically analyse contemporary issues in the field of international relations and security.

28a. Mapping of skills and other attributes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills and other attributes No.</th>
<th>Module(s) in which this will be delivered and assessed</th>
<th>Learning skills, research skills, employability skills</th>
<th>Mode of assessing achievement of the skill or other attribute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Key Issues and Concepts</td>
<td>POLI 116; POLI 131; POLI 132.</td>
<td>Analyzing, Explaining, Categorizing, Defining</td>
<td>Essay/ Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expertise in a Specific Topic in IR and Security Studies</td>
<td>POLI 150; POLI 130; POLI 133; POLI 303; ENVS 434; LAW 073; LAW 353; LAW 354; LAW 320; IRIS 533; IRIS 525; IRIS 538</td>
<td>Remembering, Applying, Analyzing, Explaining, Evaluating, Problem solving</td>
<td>Essay/ Presentation/ Exam (some optional modules)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to Critically Analyse Contemporary Issues</td>
<td>POLI 116; POLI 131; POLI 132. POLI 150; POLI 130; POLI 133; POLI 303; ENVS 434; LAW 073; LAW 353; LAW 354; LAW 320; IRIS 533; IRIS 525; IRIS 538; COMM 714; COMM 724</td>
<td>Analyzing, Explaining, Questioning, Innovating, Evaluating</td>
<td>Essay/ Presentation/ Exam (some optional modules)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
29. **Career opportunities:**

This degree is designed to be attractive to the increasing number of students who wish to undertake an MA as a tool for career advancement. Here, the degree is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and empirical knowledge to equip them for a range of chosen careers, including, but not limited to: journalism, the military, diplomacy, as well as the non-governmental sphere. The MA might, in some cases, serve as a stimulus for further studies at the M.Phil./PhD level.

### Part C: Entrance Requirements

30. **Academic Requirements:**

Admission to the programme is on an annual basis. Candidates are normally expected to have a minimum qualification of an Upper Second Class Honours degree. There is no specification of degree subject. However, applicants with a prior undergraduate degree in either international politics/international relations, a related social science degree; or history will benefit from taking this degree. Non-graduates will be considered for admission provided they satisfy general University requirements and possess appropriate professional qualifications or experience.

31. **Work experience:**

Desirable, but not a requirement for admission. Previous work experience will not qualify a student for advanced standing.

32. **Other requirements:**

If the student’s first language is not English, then the student must demonstrate that there is sufficient command of written and spoken English such that he/she can cope with a course of study in which all teaching is provided in English. This means that the student must attempt one of the internationally recognised English language tests, and achieve the following minimum scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English test</th>
<th>Minimum score required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL - paper based</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL - computer based</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL – ibt</td>
<td>88-89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other English language qualifications are accepted including GCSE, Cambridge Proficiency, the HKCEE and so on. Should there be further questions, potential applicants are directed to contact the University of Liverpool’s International Office. The relevant contact information is found at: http://www.liv.ac.uk/international/contacts.htm

**Part D: Programme Structure**

33. **Programme Structure:**

**FULL-TIME PATHWAY**

**Semester 1**
POLI132 – International Relations Theory (30 credits) *(required)*
30 credits of optional modules

*Optional modules*

- COMM713 – Politics and Media I (15 credits)
- COMM723 – Public Service Broadcasting (15 credits)
- IRIS525 – The Theory of Practices and of Conflict and Peace (15 credits)
- LAW320 – Security, Conflict and Law (15 credits)
- LAW353 – Principles of International Law (15 credits)
- LAW073 – Human Rights Law (15 credits)
- POLI130 – The International Politics of the Mediterranean and the Middle East (15 credits)
- POLI150 – Contemporary Anti-Slavery, Forced Labour and Human Rights (15 credits)

**Semester 2**
POLI116 – Research Methods in Politics (15 credits) *(required)*
POLI131 – The International System (30 credits) *(required)*
15 credits of optional modules

*Optional modules*

- COMM714 – Politics and Media II (15 credits)
- COMM724 – Media and Human Rights (15 credits)
- ENVS434 – Space, Power and Culture (15 credits)
- IRIS538 – Northern Ireland Interpretations (15 credits)
- LAW354 – International Law and Current Affairs (15 credits)
- POLI133 – Comparative Peace Processes (15 credits)

**Summer vacation**
POLI119 - Dissertation (60 credits) *(required)*

**PART-TIME PATHWAY**

**YEAR 1**

**Semester 1**
Poli132 – International Relations Theory (30 credits) *(required)*
**Semester 2**
POLI131 – The International System (30 credits) *(required)*

**YEAR 2**

**Semester 1**
30 credits of optional modules

*Optional modules*

COMM713 – Politics and Media I (15 credits)
COMM723 – Public Service Broadcasting (15 credits)
IRISS525 – The Theory of Practices and of Conflict and Peace (15 credits)
LAW320 – Security, Conflict and Law (15 credits)
LAW353 – Principles of International Law (15 credits)
LAW073 – Human Rights Law (15 credits)
POLI130 – The International Politics of the Mediterranean and the Middle East (15 credits)
POLI150 – Contemporary Anti-Slavery, Forced Labour and Human Rights (15 credits)

**Semester 2**
POLI116 – Research Methods in Politics (15 credits) *(required)*
15 credits of optional modules

*Optional modules*

COMM714 – Politics and Media II (15 credits)
COMM724 – Media and Human Rights (15 credits)
ENVS434 – Space, Power and Culture (15 credits)
IRISS538 – Northern Ireland Interpretations (15 credits)
LAW354 – International Law and Current Affairs (15 credits)
POLI133 – Comparative Peace Processes (15 credits)

*Summer vacation*

POLI119 - Dissertation (60 credits) *(required)*

### 34. Industrial placement/work placement/year abroad:
N/A

### 35. Liaison between the Level 2 Schools/Institutes involved:

This programme includes modules from the Schools of Law, Arts and Environmental Sciences. The Programme Director will liaise closely with these schools to ensure any issues that may arise are promptly dealt with.

Since this MA Degree is offered by the Department of Politics, primary responsibility for the modules lies with that Department. With respect to modules taught elsewhere, students will be expected to comply with the requirements set out by the respective module convenors.
### Part E: Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

#### 36. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies:

Teaching is mainly by 2-hour seminar, with some lecture input within the seminars. The seminars will constitute the primary forum by which key concepts, ideas and information will be communicated to students. Students will also have the opportunity to discuss the content of the seminars during the office hours that are offered by all teaching staff.

The emphasis on seminars as a teaching tool reflects the belief among the teaching staff involved in the MA (IRS) that this form of communicating knowledge is ideal for students studying international relations at MA level. The seminar is intended to serve as a venue where the different debates and perspectives in the literature are closely examined.

#### 36a. Learning, Teaching and Assessment methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay; Presentation; Exam (some optional modules)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### 37. Assessment information for students:

**Code of Practice on Assessment**

The University has a Code of Practice on Assessment which brings together the main institutional policies and rules on assessment. The Code is an authoritative statement of the philosophy and principles underlying all assessment activities and of the University's expectations in relation to how academic subjects design, implement and review assessment strategies for all taught programmes of study.

The Code of Practice includes a number of Appendices which provide more detail on the regulations and rules that govern assessment activity; these include:

- The University marks scale, marking descriptors and qualification descriptors;
- The framework for modular, postgraduate programmes;
- Information about students’ progress, including guidance for students;
- The procedure for assessment appeals;
- Regulations for the conduct of exams;
- The University’s policy on making adjustments to exam arrangements for disabled students.
- The code of practice relating to external examining (see also below)
- The Academic Integrity Policy, which covers matters such as plagiarism and collusion and includes guidance for students;
- The policy relating to mitigating circumstances which explains what you should do if you have mitigating circumstances that have affected assessment; and
- The policy on providing students with feedback on assessment.

Please click [here](#) to access the Code of Practice on Assessment and its appendices; this link will also give you access to assessment information that is specific to your cohort:
A summary of key assessment information is also available in the 'Your University' handbook.

**Marking criteria:**

The marking descriptors for the Department of Politics will be used in marking all work on this programme. These are:

90-100: Absolutely outstanding answer. Factually faultless; strong degree of originality; clearly directed, comprehensive coverage; extensive evidence of supplementary reading; very well written.

80-89: Outstanding answer. Factually almost faultless; clearly directed; logical; good evidence of supplementary reading; original; very well written.

70-79: Very good answer. Presentation is fresh, logical and perhaps enlightening; originality of thought or approach; evidence of outside reading; good coverage; very well written and directed.

60-69: Comprehensive answer. Clear, logical; thorough; factually sound (sufficiency of facts and/or no serious errors); evidence of outside reading and/or originality; well written and directed.

50-59: Adequate answer. Competent but largely limited to lecture and textbook material; perhaps some errors or key facts missing; no originality; little evidence of outside reading; expression/style/grammar moderate.

40-49: Incomplete answer. Information fairly sparse; some inaccuracies; broadly relevant to the question but poor coverage of lecture material; no sign of outside reading; expression/style/grammar poor.

30-39: Deficient answer. Poorly directed at question; many omissions or errors but some relevant facts correct; understanding poor; expression/style/grammar poor.

15-29: Very deficient answer. Largely irrelevant to the question; a few facts correct, but many omissions and errors; expression/style/grammar very poor.

0-14: Totally inadequate answer. Little or no relevance to the question or little or no substance/factual material; approach may be all wrong; expression/style/grammar weak.
38. **Student representation and feedback:**

A departmental Staff/Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) is established in accordance with the University Code of Practice on Student Representation (a copy of which can be accessed at: [http://www.liv.ac.uk/tqsd/pol_strat_cop/cop_on_student_representation.doc](http://www.liv.ac.uk/tqsd/pol_strat_cop/cop_on_student_representation.doc))

The SSLC normally meets twice a year. Its membership, terms of reference, and the manner in which it conducts its business conforms to the requirements of the Annex to the Code of Practice on Student Representation. Elections to SSLCs are carried out within the structure determined by the University Student Representation Steering Group, and all students will be encouraged to participate. Training is provided by the Guild of Students. Student representation is encouraged on all decision-making committees in the School and participation in these settings are welcomed and appreciated.

Students are also asked to take part in module evaluation exercises, using module evaluation questionnaires (MEQs) to feedback on their experiences of modules. Staff feedback on issues raised and actions taken via lectures, VITAL or other methods (SSLC) and MEQs form a large element of the module review process and Module Review Boards. Other avenues of providing feedback via focus groups, open forums or through the University’s quality assurance processes (e.g. Periodic Review or Holistic Review) may take place from time to time and the participation of students in these settings is valued very highly. Students are further encouraged to make use of less formal mechanisms for feedback such as through speaking to relevant members of staff or academic advisors at any time. Formal complaints may be made to the Head of Department, but issues can normally be resolved through informal discussion or the mechanisms noted above at an early stage should any difficulties occur.

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Part F: Status of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body Accreditation

39. **Status of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body Accreditation:**

N/A

Part G: Diversity & Equality of Opportunity and Widening Participation

40. **Diversity & Equality of Opportunity and Widening Participation:**

The programme’s design, structure and content are consistent and comply with the University’s Diversity and Equal Opportunities Policy ([http://www.liv.ac.uk/diversity-and-equality/policies/](http://www.liv.ac.uk/diversity-and-equality/policies/)).

Within the Department there is a diverse student population consisting of a wide ethnic mix, home/EU and international students and a number of mature students. The annual subject review (ASR) identifies where there may be particular difficulties placed on a particular group of students allowing for any processes to ensure equality can be put into place.
The Department strives to ensure that all students, whatever their background, have a good range of opportunities to enhance their employability and skills throughout their programme of study.

### ANNEX 1

**Annex Of Modifications Made To The Programme**

Please complete the table below to record modifications made to the programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of modification (please include details of any student consultation undertaken or confirm that students’ consent was obtained where this was required)</th>
<th>Minor or major modifications</th>
<th>Date approved by FAQSC</th>
<th>Date approved by AQSC (if applicable)</th>
<th>Cohort affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Removal of optional modules (POLI114 and POLI303)</td>
<td>Modification</td>
<td></td>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>