COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc International Development Studies

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Course Title	*MSc International Development (DL)*
Final Award	*MSc*
Exit Awards	*Postgraduate Certificate* *Postgraduate Diploma*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*P3064FTD/P3064PTD*
Mode of study	*Full time or Part time*
Mode of delivery	*Distance Learning*
Normal length of course	*1-year full time, 2 years part time*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*September 2024 intake onwards*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Humanities and Social Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/msc-international-development-distance-learning*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*none*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*Level 7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.
This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The Course Specification Guidance Notes include advice on what to include in this section.

- *Provide a framework for personal, professional and academic development at postgraduate level for those engaged in or aim to work in the international development sector.*
- *Provide an opportunity for participants to explore and analyse their personal and professional roles in different policy and practice areas of international development studies including,*

economics, health, education, gender, professional communication and human security.

- *Develop a professional approach to applied research in international development through a consideration of the practical, technical and philosophical dimensions of research methodology and the use of appropriate advanced research techniques;*
- *Provide a framework in which participants can generate original knowledge to support their own area of international development studies e.g. economics, health, education, gender, international justice and international relations.*
- *Enable and encourage graduates of the programme to disseminate the results of their research with a view to contributing to the debate or influencing policy and practice;*
- *Enhance the development of reflective practice through discussion and networking with others who may be working in different sectors of international development.*

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
A1	*Current theoretical and research developments within the discipline relating to their area of professional practice*	*Lecture slides, Notes, Weblinks, Readings and Podcasts will be posted on Moodle. Online discussion forums enhance student interaction and learning from one another. Weekly SPSS exercises for the Applied Research*	*Discussion forum submission, Essay, Social enterprise project, Quantitative Project, Coursework, Qualitative research assignment and research project such as Dissertation*
A2	*Theoretical and philosophical bases of qualitative and quantitative methodologies in applied social science research*		
A3	*Ethical issues arising from undertaking research within the different sectors of International Development to be covered by the programme*		
A4	*Different concepts, theories and methods used in the study of International Development to the analysis of the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts.*		
A5	*The changing political practices, processes and challenges of International Development policies and practices.*		

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
B1	*Apply high level skills needed for advanced academic study in a global and complex context that require new strategic approaches*		

B2	*Research, analyse, synthesise and evaluate information and evidence so as to transfer new theoretical, research and professional understanding into areas of practice and beyond relevant to international development.*	*Lecture slides, Notes, Weblinks, readings and podcasts will be posted on Moodle. Online discussion forums enhance student interaction and learning from one another.*	*Essay, Reports, Quantitative Data Analysis project, research project such as Dissertation and Country Profile Report*
B3	*Critically analyse the methodological, theoretical and ethical dimensions of research in International development and show a critical awareness of potential limitations and constraints.*		
B4	*Justify research methodologies and research paradigms on which their enquiry is based.*		
B5	*Challenge current assumptions and accepted practice within international development studies.*		

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	*Select appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative research methodologies to enable them to conduct research leading to the generation of original knowledge in relation to their professional practice or discipline of interest.*	*Lecture slides, Notes, Weblinks, readings and podcasts will be posted on Moodle. Online discussion forums enhance student interaction and learning from one another.*	*Research Project such as Dissertation, Essay, Country Report and Discussion forum*
C2	*Identify a suitable topic for research based on a research question and/or hypotheses, creating an independent piece of work in which qualities are evident such as interpretation and critical evaluation of the quality of evidence.*		
C3	*Interact and network with a multi-disciplinary cohort of students to gain and share insights from others.*		
C4	*Identify, investigate and solve problems through lateral thinking to develop innovative solutions of benefit to the economy and society, thinking creatively in both practical and theoretical contexts.*		
C5	*Critically evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence.*		

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
	Learning outcome		**Assessment**

LO number		Learning and Teaching methods	methods
D1	*Disseminate theoretical, research and professional understanding and recommendations to academic and professional communities using a variety of formats.*	*Lecture slides, Notes, Weblinks, readings and podcasts will be posted on Moodle. Online discussion forums enhance student interaction and learning from one another.*	*Policy brief, Essay, Country Report, Dissertation, Qualitative data assessment and Quantitative Data Analysis Project*
D2	*Manage their own learning and projects effectively in a timely and critical fashion while working individually and collectively and critically reflect on their own learning.*		
D3	*Coordinate the collection, analysis and interpretation of qualitative data and/or quantitative data.*		
D4	*Demonstrate a sense of responsibility allied to a commitment to ethical practice in a variety of professional, civic, and personal contexts.*		
D5	*Effectively communicate through a variety of formats, and to different audiences; create and produce information and media in an innovative manner.*	*Weekly SPSS exercises for the Applied Research Methods for Development module*	

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations / Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations (Collaborative Courses) *(Delete as appropriate)* will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides…

Please add additional distinctive items where relevant or delete the sentence above.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification
- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Sociology . Politics and International Relations and Area Studies
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

Changes to your course / modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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Document Details	
CSD Template date	*May 2024*
Author	*Ottis Mubaiwa*
Date of production and version number	*02/12/2024 v1*
Date of update and version number	*02/12/2024 v1*
Minimum student registration numbers	*10*