The University Of Sheffield.

Programme Specification
A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from
The University of Sheffield

1	**Programme Title**	Politics, Governance and Public Policy
2	**Programme Code**	POLT95
3	**JACS Code**	L200; L220; L230
4	**Level of Study**	Postgraduate
5a	**Final Qualification**	Master of Arts (MA)
5b	**QAA FHEQ Level**	7
6a	**Intermediate Qualification(s)**	Postgraduate Diploma; Postgraduate Certificate
6b	**QAA FHEQ Level**	7
7	**Teaching Institution** (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	**Faculty**	Social Sciences
9	**Department**	Politics
10	**Other Departments providing credit bearing modules for the programme**	None
11	**Mode(s) of Attendance**	Full-time or Part-time
12	**Duration of the Programme**	1 year or 2 years
13	**Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body**	Not applicable
14	**Date of production/revision**	October 2016 / Revised March 2018

15. Background to the programme and subject area

The programme equips students with the tools of analysis and an understanding of the political, economic and social drivers that shape governance, from agenda setting through to implementation and evaluation. It combines core theoretical themes in the study of politics and governance with a real world focus, and emphasises policy-making as a multi-level phenomenon. The teaching is research-led, drawing on departmental strengths (top three RAE / REF placement since 2001) across key areas of the field, including policy analysis, democratic governance, Europeanisation, global governance and multi-level governance, as well as expertise in specific policy and governance areas.

Based around a core module, that provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of study and key theoretical contributions, the programme combines this with optional modules that are designed to allow students to apply the insights gained in the core to a range of different settings (national, regional and international) and to understand the relationship between input and output dimensions of governance and policy-making. Teaching is augmented by a series of workshops, that include contributions from both academics and practitioners, who discuss theoretical and practical issues in the field.

16. Programme aims

The programme aims are:

1. to combine core theoretical themes in the study of politics and governance with a real world focus, and emphasises policy-making as a multi-level phenomenon.

2. to provide a comprehensive introduction to the core theories and approaches in politics and governance.

3. to allow students to apply such theories and approaches to a range of different settings – national, regional and international.

4. to allow students to understand the relationship between input and output dimensions of governance and policy-making.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:	
By the end of the programme, students completing the MA in Politics and Governance will be able to:	
K1	Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of different theoretical approaches to the study of politics, policy-making and governance.
K2	Be able to employ these approaches to the practical realities of politics and governance in a sophisticated, reflexive and critical manner.
K3	Critically engage with the key debates in the study of politics and governance; relating to both how to explain the successes and failures of policy-making; and how to define and operationalise key concepts in the field.
K4	Demonstrate understanding of how to develop, design and plan an extended piece of independent research around a research question related to politics and governance.

Skills and other attributes:	
By the end of the programme, students completing the MA in Politics and Governance will be able to:	
S1	Critically evaluate advanced concepts and theories in the field of politics and governance.
S2	Employ primary and secondary sources in an effective and accurate way.
S3	Present reasoned and effective arguments in both written and oral form.
S4	Pursue independent learning and to show critical judgement.
S5	Work collaboratively with others in a group.
S6	Conduct the relevant theoretical and / or empirical research necessary to produce a major piece of independent research.

18. Teaching, learning and assessment

Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

Lectures

Lectures will be used to impart essential knowledge and to give students the foundational knowledge they need for the successful completion of the Programme. Lectures are also an important means of engaging students with their modules and readings. No single module on the Programme will be delivered solely by lectures.

Seminars

Seminars will be used to develop students' critical understanding of the core issues raised in the modules and to deepen understanding gained in lectures and from readings.

- The use of group work in such seminars will enhance collaborative skills and allow students to apply their knowledge with others.

- The use of class presentations in those seminars will enhance communication and organisational skills and allow students to provide and receive peer feedback on their ideas.

Tutorials / Supervisions

Individual tutorials will be used during the supervision of the 12,000 word dissertation. Advice will be given on the construction and completion of an independent research project on a topic related to the Programme.

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

12,000 word dissertation

The dissertation allows students the opportunity to put into practice all of the skills, knowledge and understanding that they have gained throughout the Programme. The dissertation is used to assess these attributes, as well as the ability of the student to undertake a major piece of independent research on a relevant topic to the Programme.

Essays

Essays will be use to evaluate students' comprehension of particular concepts, theoretical perspectives and debates related to the module. They will also be used to assess students' ability to communicate clearly and construct well-developed arguments of their own.

Group-Authored Reports

Some of the modules will assess students via a group project, which will see students work in groups 3-4 to write a 2,500 word policy report on real world scenario. These will evaluate students' ability to apply academic theories and debates to real-world policy issues. In doing so, they will also assess students' depth of understanding of those theories and debates and their ability to communicate such understanding.

The relationship between these learning and teaching methods, assessment methods and the programme learning outcomes are set out in the table below:

Learning Outcome (see section 17 for full text)	Teaching and Learning			Assessment Methods		
	Lectures	Seminars	Tutorials / Supervisions	Dissertation	Essays	Group-Authored Reports
K1	X	X	X	X	X	X
K2	X	X	X	X	X	X
K3	X	X	X	X	X	X
K4	X		X	X		
S1	X	X	X	X	X	X
S2	X	X	X	X	X	X
S3		X	X	X	X	X
S4		X	X	X	X	X
S5		X	X			X
S6	X		X	X		

19. Reference points

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

QAA Framework: Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7 on the FHEQ and SCQF level 11 on the FQHEIS: master's degree

QAA Subject benchmark for Politics and International Relations (Honours level applied to the Masters framework)

The University Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

The Department of Politics Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Feedback from External Examiners

20. Programme structure and regulations

Students will undertake:

<u>The Core Module:</u>

Analysing the Policy Process (30 Credits)

<u>Three mandatory Modules:</u>

Understanding Politics (15 credits)

Dissertation Preparation Module (15 credits)

Dissertation Module (60 credits) (Dissertations will be required to address a topic **directly related** to the student's MA programme).

<u>Two Optional Modules</u> (30 credits each) from the following list **OR** one from this list **PLUS one non-core** module (30 credit) from another Politics MA programme (including the Politics modules on the MA in Political Theory):

Policy Making in the Real World

Democratic Governance in the 21st Century: Problems, Innovations and Solutions

Politics and Governance of the European Union

Wellbeing in Politics and Policy

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/regs.

21. Student development over the course of study

This programme of study has been designed so that there is a clear development in relation to students' knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the sub-discipline of Politics and Governance.

The mandatory module Understanding Politics – taught in the first semester - provides students with a foundation in the main approaches to studying the discipline as a whole. The core module for the Programme, Analysing the Policy Process – also taught in the first semester - provides students with a grounding in the main theories, debates and approaches relevant to the sub-discipline of Politics and Governance more specifically.

The optional modules then allow students to develop their understanding further by giving them the opportunity to build specialist knowledge of key themes within the sub-discipline.

The Dissertation Preparation Module – taught in the first semester - gives students' vital and focused preparation on how to frame, construct and execute an independent research project. By the end of this module, and the end of the semester, they will have completed a research proposal to guide their work in the Dissertation, which they can start work on in January, before the second semester's taught modules commence.

The Dissertation itself allows students to use their accumulated skills and understanding, with the support of their individual supervisor, to undertake an independent piece of research on a theme or issue relevant to the sub-discipline.

Throughout their development, students will be supported in their development by the teaching team and individual supervisors. And we expect them to be extremely well-placed to take up internships, placements and other employment opportunities once the formal teaching from the Programme comes to an end.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

A **good Social Science degree** - first-class or a strong 2:1 honours, or an equivalent attainment in an overseas qualification. Relevant Social Science Degrees include Architecture, Economics, Education, Geography, International Relations, Journalism, Law, Management, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, and Town and Regional Planning. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss whether your degree is suitable.

English Language Requirements
IELTS grade 6.5 overall with a minimum of 6.0 in all sub components.

23. Additional information

None

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid.